

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLII.]

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 1895.

No. 22.

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MARRIAGES.

On the 18th November, 1895, at the Union Church, Hongkong, by the Reverend G. J. Williams, HAROLD, youngest son of the late TOM GOULD, Newnham, Gloucestershire, to JANE ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of SETH WILLIAM PAYNE, Shoe-buryness, Essex. [2417]

On the 21st instant, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., WILLIAM ERNEST SAWER, Commander of Indo-China steamer *Wosang*, to ALICE MARY (ALICE), daughter of JOHN BLUMFIELD, of Halstead, Essex. [2410]

At the Union Church, on the 22nd instant, by the Rev. G. J. Williams, ROBERT ADAM, to MARGARET, second daughter of the late GEORGE ROBERTS, Glasgow, Scotland. [2423]

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

There have been no arrivals of mails during the past week.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Japanese Diet is to meet on the 25th December.

According to the *Comercio* preparations are well advanced for the working of petroleum mines at Toledo, in the island of Cebu.

Piratical bands continue to give trouble in Tonkin and the Phulangthuong and Langson railway and the trains running on it have to be strictly guarded.

We learn that two rival plans for a railway from Canton to the North have been submitted by Hongkong Chinese, but as yet neither plan has been approved.

A collision occurred on the 22nd inst. at Woosung between the P. & O. steamer *Rohilla*, and the Blue-funnel steamer *Hector*, both vessels sustaining some damage.

The Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce has accepted an invitation from the London Chamber to take part in the Third Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, to be held in June next.

The German ships which were at Amoy the other day and whose movements gave rise to various reports have now dispersed. The *Irene* is now in Hongkong, the *Cormoran* has gone to Foochow, and the *Prinzess Wilhelm* to Shanghai.

Paris telegrams in the Tonkin papers state that M. Rousseau, Governor-General of Indo-China, has arrived in Paris, and was met at the railway station by the members of the Cabinet. It is stated that he desires to return to his post as soon as the questions which have called him to Paris are settled.

Mexican dollars are rapidly disappearing from the local currency. In a collection of 161 dollars in silver made by a shroff in the ordinary course of business, and which may be taken as a fair sample the number of the different coins was found to be as follows:—British dollars 51, yen 108, Mexican 2, total \$161.

Lord Salisbury speaking at Brighton, insisted on the necessity of the maintenance of Great Britain's naval supremacy. He did not expect a speedy dissolution of the Turkish Empire, but thought that territorial and political changes were possible there and elsewhere which would oblige Great Britain to stand prepared.

The statutory meeting of Oliver's Freehold Co., Limited, was held on the 23rd inst. The Company has been formed to purchase land and mines near the Lachlan River, N.S.W. Mr. J. D. Humphreys, who has recently visited the property, presided, and he gave a favourable account of the prospects of the Company.

Three different projects are being debated in regard to the construction of docks at Kobe. One is promoted by the Mitsui Bishi Company at Onohama, the dimensions enabling vessels of over 7,000 tons to be received. Another dock is contemplated by some residents of Osaka and Kobe, near Iwaya. The third is promoted by other Osaka and Kobe residents, but will be constructed on the western shore of Kamabayashi.

From an announcement in the advertising columns of the *Daily Press*, it will be observed that the Spanish line of steamers are no longer represented at this port by Messrs. Villa, Lopez & Co., and we understand that the Agency thereof has been transferred to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. Messrs. Villa, Lopez & Co. inform us that it is entirely due to their efforts during the past two years that the directors have finally decided to extend the line to China, and they are ignorant of the reasons which may have influenced the directors to now deprive them of the agency. The steamer *Manila* of this line is due at this port about 1st prox. and may possibly proceed to Shanghai, returning to Europe via Hongkong and Manila.

We learn that a hundred and twenty-five piculs of Szechuen opium were seized by the native Customs some distance inland from Canton the other day. The value is estimated at about \$30,000. The opium was being smuggled and had come via the Tongting Lake and Siang River through Hunan and then overland. It was seized only a few miles from Canton, its destination.

Strict precautions are still observed at Canton against any rebellious attack. All the city gates are closed at 6 p.m. and are not opened again till morning on any excuse. Small parties of soldiers, or more correctly military police, carrying loaded revolvers and blunderbusses, patrol the streets of the suburbs from 5.30 p.m. till all the street gates are closed for the night, which is done at an earlier hour than formerly, and, as in the case of the city gates, the street gates are not opened till near morning.

The blue funnel steamer *Menelaus* arrived at Singapore on the 13th inst., having in tow the Scottish Oriental steamer *Taichow*, whose piston rod broke while on a voyage between Bangkok and Hongkong. The injured vessel went to the Tanjong Pagar Dock to effect repairs. Captain Street, of the P. & O. steamer *Ravenna*, which arrived at Singapore on the 12th, reported that at 4.45 a.m. on the 10th inst. he observed signals of distress away to eastward, and standing by he stopped and communicated with the *Taichow*, which stated that her engines had broken down and asked to be taken in tow. At 5.48 he proceeded ahead to the Holt steamer *Menelaus*, bound for Singapore, and communicated with her, the *Menelaus* immediately proceeding to the assistance of the *Taichow* and taking her in tow. Captain Street stood by until he saw the *Menelaus* in company with the *Taichow*, and then proceeded on his way.

The session of the Hongkong Legislative Council was opened on Monday, when the Governor made his annual speech in laying the estimates on the table and was able to give a favourable account of the position of the colony. The estimated revenue for 1896 is \$2,288,366 and the estimated expenditure \$2,479,062, of which \$197,200 is for public works extraordinary and chargeable to the loan. The revenue for 1895 will be about \$2,363,000 and the expenditure about \$2,143,000, leaving a surplus of revenue over expenditure at the end of the present year of some \$220,000. For the first nine months of this year, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, British shipping shows an increase of 378 vessels aggregating 575,306 tons. Foreign shipping with a numerical decrease of 75 ships also shows an increase in tonnage of 11,887 tons. European vessels have handled and carried some 276,000 tons of cargo more than last year. There is likewise an increase in the foreign and local junk trades of 178,747 tons and 79,263 tons respectively. The total increase over last year in the number of ships entered and cleared is no less than 5,551 vessels aggregating 845,203 tons. Referring to the political situation His Excellency said that whilst for a time at least local interests may necessarily be postponed in favour of purely Imperial interests, he had every reason to believe that the questions most particularly affecting this colony have by no means been lost sight of.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

In opening the session of the Legislative Council yesterday Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON was able to give a very favourable account of the condition and prospects of the colony. How far His Excellency would claim that the flourishing state of affairs now prevailing is due to official influences we do not know, but he seems to put forward a claim that officialdom is at least not a millstone round the neck of the colony. He has looked in vain, he says, for the symptoms peculiar to a people writhing under injustice and taxed up to the limit of endurance and he has discovered only that happy condition of progress and prosperity which usually obtains in a well ordered community. That the form of Government has a considerable influence on the condition of a people may be accepted as a truism, but it cannot be admitted that officials individually are to be thanked for all that is good, or, on the other hand, blamed for all that is bad. The public, paying good salaries, has a right to look for a certain degree of excellence in its public servants, and excellence merits commendation; but the taxpayers cannot be expected to break forth into praise because the officials are not utterly bad nor the community at large writhing under injustice or groaning under excessive taxation. The freedom enjoyed under the British constitution is such that even in a remote Crown Colony under a bureaucratic Government the power for evil of bad or incompetent officials is limited; like an eczema on the body politic, they may cause great irritation and inconvenience, but they are hardly capable of giving rise to a fatal illness. In Hongkong we may consider ourselves a moderately well ordered community, but there is plenty of room for improvement and no good reason why the improvement should not be effected. Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON'S remarks yesterday challenge criticism on the official system of the colony and the verdict must be that if the system is not so bad as it might be it is certainly not so good as it ought to be.

We have no desire to underrate really valuable services. The precautions taken against the plague this year have, we believe, prevented a recurrence of the disastrous epidemic of last year. The belief is perhaps speculative, because no precautions have been taken in Canton and there has been no recurrence of the epidemic there, which might be taken as a *prima facie* ground for believing that there would have been no recurrence here, but certain it is that a number of cases occurred in the colony of such virulence as, in the absence of effective precautions, would have raised serious apprehensions and did indeed do so. The precautions taken and the efficiency with which the necessary measures were carried out may, however, be taken almost as a matter of course, for any Government or community after the experience of 1894 would have been mad not to have done all in its power to protect itself against a similar visitation. We appreciate the services rendered in that matter, but they were only what the colony had a right to expect. The services rendered by the Governor individually in the matter of the coolie strike stand on rather a different footing. A representative committee appointed by the mercantile community was in favour of throwing up the sponge and surrendering to the forces of lawlessness, but Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON stood firm and

conducted the fight to a successful issue, much to the advantage of trade and of good order. Had he yielded to the advice tendered him by the committee of merchants he could hardly have been blamed, but that he took the responsibility of ignoring that advice and carrying the matter through on his own lines, which proved successful, entitles him to the highest possible praise, which the whole community united in according to him.

But if the Governor's action with regard to the coolie strike merits high praise, it would be almost impossible to condemn too severely his action with regard to the Sanitary Board. His Excellency says "there are those who have pretended to see in the action of the Government an attempt to deal a death blow to the Sanitary Board. I disclaim any such motive." Reference to His Excellency's speech at the opening of the Legislative Council last year will show that no pretence was required on the part of those who saw a design to deal a death blow to the Sanitary Board, His Excellency having himself been sufficiently explicit as to his intention. On that occasion he said that "favourable as he was personally to municipal and representative institutions where they could be safely established" he was bound to say that he considered the opinion that in Hongkong all sanitary arrangements should be placed in the hands of one thoroughly competent officer who should be personally responsible to the Government for all matters connected with the health of the colony and for carrying out all sanitary laws and regulations was one that should be acted upon; and, further, that he did not believe a Sanitary Board meeting once a fortnight could properly control and direct such a staff as was required, and that four or five independent gentlemen could be found who had the time and inclination to devote several hours daily to such a task was beyond the bounds of possibility. It is true His Excellency concluded by saying that he hoped shortly to be in a position to state definitely what steps it had been decided to take to place the Sanitary Board on a new basis, but the only inference to be drawn from the whole passage was that the Board was to be placed on a new basis by being killed and buried. It is extremely gratifying to learn that the project is not to be carried out and that it now appears so monstrous even in the eyes of the Governor himself that His Excellency cannot believe he ever entertained such a project.

Turning to other matters in the address, we note first His Excellency's remarks on the military contribution question. The amount of the contribution is now put down at 17½ per cent. of the revenue (exclusive of land sales) and \$40,000 for barrack services. His Excellency says he is in possession of the views of the unofficial members on that subject, but he asks them to vote the sum set down in the estimates subject to further representations and such modifications as may hereafter be approved. It is to be hoped the unofficial members will not comply with the request, but will fight for a rebate on account of the municipal expenditure, so that we may be placed on the same basis as the Straits Settlements, and will also try to have the \$40,000 for barrack services struck out, though it is to be feared that on the latter point they have, with the exception of the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, already committed themselves too far to draw back. On the basis on which the 17½ per cent. should be reckoned, however, there can be no division of opinion. It would be clearly inequitable to make this colony pay 17½ per cent. on its full revenue while the Straits are

asked to pay only on the general revenue exclusive of municipal revenue.

The Governor seems to anticipate that the Taipingshan resumption scheme will prove a financial as well as a sanitary success. If that result is attained it will be an eloquent tribute to the far-sightedness of Governor Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX, who, as will be remembered, before ever the plague was thought of, had a Bill passed giving the Government power to buy up insanitary districts and deal with them as Taipingshan is now being dealt with. Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX unfortunately fell sick and had to go away, and, under our excellent system of government, no more was thought of the scheme. Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON had never even heard of it, until the plague came and woke up the Government and every one else to the sanitary requirements of the colony. Satisfactory progress is now being made in sanitation, however, with the result that the death rate this year is lower than it has ever been before, and with a popularly constituted Sanitary Board in control, as we hope will soon again be the case, we may reasonably look for a continuous policy of improvement and that valuable schemes like that provided for by the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance will not be lost sight of when their originators leave the colony, as is apt to be the case under a system of unadulterated officialdom.

With reference to other topics touched upon in His Excellency's address, it is gratifying to know that the economies recommended by the Retrenchment Committee are being effected as rapidly as opportunity offers, that the shipping returns show a satisfactory expansion of trade, that crime has been at a low ebb during the year, and last, but not least, that in the hurly-burly of international politics the Governor has reason to believe that the interests most particularly affecting this colony have by no means been lost sight of. Just how much or how little that may mean it is impossible to say, but it has a cheerful ring with it. We hope His Excellency may shortly be in a position to make a more explicit statement on the subject and that the expectations to which his present remarks give rise may not be disappointed.

THE MAHOMMEDAN REBELLION.

The extent and importance of the Mahomedan Rebellion in the North-west of China seem to have been considerably exaggerated in the first reports of the movements of the insurgents. This circumstance, as we pointed out recently, is not surprising. News in the Central Kingdom, like a snow-ball rolling, gathers as it travels, and it is often the case that a trifling incident occurring in the interior assumes portentous dimensions ere the intimation of it reaches the coast. A missionary belonging to the China Inland Mission informs the Wuchang correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary that the rebellion has all along been opposed by the head men among the Mahomedans, who doubtless cherish a lively recollection of the merciless severity with which the last insurrection in the provinces of the north-west was quelled. When, however, the people broke out the leaders were compelled to throw in their lot with them, but all the same they are not eager for the conflict, and if the Chinese authorities do not use their power too harshly in putting it down at Hochow, where it was started, it is believed the rebellion is not likely to spread. The rising, as we have

said, originated in Hochow, and after an engagement with the Chentai or Brigadier-General, which lasted three days, and in which he is said to have lost three battalions, the rebel force marched to the city of Tytau, or Singtan, and joined by the Mahommedans of the district besieged that city for fifteen days, committing much havoc round, but failing to capture the place. Joined by another body of co-religionists they fell back upon Tytau, and were there defeated by General MA NGAN-HANG, who made a rapid march during the recent war with Japan from Hochow to Peking, covering the distance in fifteen days, whereas it ordinarily takes forty-five days. This General has, it would appear, succeeded in confining the rebellion to the Hochow district. The insurgents crossed the river, but they were driven back by the Imperialists. They have invaded and laid waste the Haining district, and have advanced to within seventy li of Lanchow, the capital of Kansuh, but up to the latest advices they had not reached that city.

The truth is that the rebellion, up to its present stage, is purely local. It arose out of the oppression and severity of the officials, and the general distrust existing between the people and the ruling class. It is reported that before there were any overt symptoms of rebellion the Chentai at Hochow placed guns on the city wall and had proclamations posted up at various points in the city saying that all the Mahommedans would be killed. From this it is evident that there have been incitements to religious fanaticism in the minds of the Buddhist and Confucian sects in the province, and the incipient spark of revolt against the Emperor KWANG SU has been fanned into flame by His Imperial Majesty's own officials. Whether the rising assumes really formidable dimensions or not depends very much upon the manner in which the operations against the rebels is conducted, and also to no small extent upon the treatment accorded to those who were so misguided as to be led into rebellion for no adequate reason. If they are treated with great harshness the movement may be quashed for the time, but the disaffection will remain and germinate afresh, ready to break out again on the smallest provocation. Even as it is the Mahommedans in China are chronically discontented and ready to take advantage of any opportunity to rise against the Ta-tsing dynasty. The Mongols are scarcely less dissatisfied with Manchu rule, and only need very brief invitation to become the subjects of the Great White Czar, who treats such of them as reside in his dominions with far greater liberality than is shown them by the Chinese mandarinates. The Mahommedans would no doubt welcome the advent of the Russians into Northern China, and might even, in a war, go over to them *en masse*. Muscovite influence will undoubtedly in the future extend both through Mongolia and Manchuria, even if it does not penetrate into the eighteen provinces, and the Peking Government will act wisely by promptly setting their house in order before the day comes when they will have less power to do so. The Mahommedans in China are of the same race and have therefore no natural antipathies to their rulers; if the officials only treat them justly and liberally they will become as loyal as any other section of the native population.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. A. McConachie has been appointed an unofficial member of the Legislative Council during the absence of the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving.

SHANGHAI AND ITS FUTURE GOVERNMENT.

In the interview which Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR accorded to a deputation of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce the retiring Minister was asked if there was any prospect of the revised Land Regulations of the Settlement being approved. To this question His Excellency gave no reply, the omission, it is understood, being accidental. He had a long string of questions to answer, and this particular one appears to have escaped his memory. The matter is perhaps not of much vital consequence; had it been, some of the deputation would no doubt have drawn His Excellency's attention to the fact that he had omitted to answer the question. The regulations were sent up to Peking for approval fifteen years ago, and there they have lain pigeon-holed ever since, and now it is admitted that they would stand in need of another revision before being brought into force, owing to the alterations that have taken place in the conditions during the interval. And those conditions are now undergoing a more rapid transformation than ever before. As to the extension of the Settlement, Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR "entirely agreed that the Settlement was at present a great deal too limited, and it would become much more so when the manufactures and industries were in full swing. If the Settlement grew at anything like the rate at which it had been increasing, the population in ten or fifteen years would be enormous and Shanghai would soon be the Calcutta of the Far East." This being so, and there is every reason to believe the retiring Minister's predictions will be fulfilled, the question naturally suggests itself whether the constitution of the Settlement will not require a much more radical alteration than a mere revision of the Land Regulations. With the growth of manufactures and the increase of population the difficulty of satisfactorily governing the Settlement will necessarily become greater and the present system of dual control seems bound to break down sooner or later. At present when anything out of the ordinary routine requires to be done the Municipal Council has to address the Senior Consul, who in turn addresses the local Chinese officials, and in cases in which the latter have not sufficient powers to take action on their own responsibility, or in which they do not wish to do so, the matter has to be referred to Peking. A case in point is that of the Woosung Bar, which annually causes great loss to shipping. The difficulty, it is believed, might readily be got rid of at a very moderate expense, but under the present conditions it is not easy to move even so far as to get a preliminary survey made. It has been suggested that a River Conservancy Board should be formed which should have full control over the navigation of the river with power to execute all such works as might be found necessary. The suggestion is a good one, so far as it goes, but it forms only one item in the general scheme of reorganisation that is required. The difficulties of the present arrangement as regards the internal government of the Settlement are so great that there appears to be some doubt as to whether it will be possible in future to find gentlemen willing to act gratuitously as Chairman of the Municipal Council, owing to the great amount of work now attaching to the office, and the power of the Council to remunerate the Chairman for his services is uncertain. We are not prepared to suggest to our Shanghai friends a cut and dried scheme for their future government, but as interested

spectators of the development of the Settlement it seems to us that complete autonomy and the elimination of all actual control exercised by the Chinese Government is what ought to be aimed at. This might possibly be accomplished by a guarantee of the treaty powers and an annual payment to the Chinese Government of such a lump sum as might be deemed a fair equivalent of the revenue it at present derives from the Settlement and its trade. The boundaries of the Settlement should be extended so as to provide for all probable future developments and full control of the navigation of the river and of all conservancy works should be claimed. The Settlement would then be in a position to regulate its own destinies and would be independent of political complications in which it has no voice. In the recent war the neutrality of Shanghai was secured through the friendly offices of England, but there is no certainty that the same would be the case in any future war, and it may be remembered that in the Franco-Chinese war genuine alarm was felt lest the Chinese should close the port. But quite apart from such a contingency as that, which may be considered a very remote one, it is undesirable that an effete, corrupt, and obstructive body like the Chinese Government should have any voice whatever in the control of a great manufacturing and trading centre like Shanghai, whose development is dependent upon foreign influences. The present system or want of system, with the individual freedom it has allowed, has hitherto answered so well that there may be a good deal of natural reluctance to introduce a more highly organised system of government, with greater restrictions and greater responsibilities, but though it may be possible to defer the day of change it is in the nature of things impossible that the present conditions can be continued indefinitely.

LORD SALISBURY ON THE SITUATION.

The brief summary given by Reuter of Lord SALISBURY's speech at Brighton reads somewhat oracularly. His Lordship is reported to have said that he did not expect a speedy dissolution of the Turkish Empire, but thought that territorial and political changes were possible there and elsewhere which would oblige Great Britain to stand prepared. What is the word "elsewhere" intended to cover? Was Lord SALISBURY thinking of Africa or Asia? With regard to China His Lordship has already told us that Great Britain is prepared for any combination whether in regard to war or commerce, an announcement which all British subjects out here were very pleased to receive. The latest speech, however, is not quite so reassuring, for it is impossible to avoid a suspicion that when His Lordship spoke of the possibility of territorial changes in other places besides Turkey he was thinking more especially of the Far East. Although the alarm entertained a fortnight ago has in a large measure subsided and no immediate convulsion is feared, the elements of disturbance remain much as they were. As to the necessity of standing prepared, therefore, there can be no question, and it is to be hoped the expectations entertained of Lord SALISBURY's Government in this respect may be justified. It is not only the North that has to be looked to, but also the South. The reported Russian designs in Manchuria may perhaps be regarded with a certain amount of equanimity, but those

who look for them may possibly find some indications of a renewal of activity in French designs upon Siam, which must be regarded in a very different light. The foreign trade of Siam is practically all British and a French control of the kingdom could not be tolerated.

KOREA.

The *Times* suggests that the Great Powers should make arrangements for obtaining a collective agreement guaranteeing the neutrality of Korea, thus settling a question which threatens to become a source of danger to the maintenance of peace in the East. Such a guarantee, if it could be obtained, would be an excellent thing. The difficulty is that Korea cannot be trusted to manage her own affairs and foreign control of some kind is a necessity. Russia, it is to be feared, would not brook Japanese control as a permanency, and if Russia should herself assume the control Japan, though she might find it necessary to submit for the time being, would do so unwillingly and would be constantly on the watch for an opportunity to disturb the arrangement. A joint control seems out of the question, and altogether the problem is one of the most hopeless that has ever called for diplomatic solution. At present Japan is in possession, but her troops, or the greater portion of them, are to be withdrawn. The *Japan Mail* denies that this is in deference to representations from Russia. Our contemporary's explanation is that holding the Liaotung Peninsula and the northern littoral of the Yellow Sea it would be absolutely necessary that Japan should preserve her overland lines of communication through Korea to the Yalu River, at the outset at all events, and until she had brought herself into telegraphic touch with her Manchurian possessions by laying a submarine cable to Talien; but now that the retrocession of Liaotung has been agreed to that necessity is removed, and the troops are to be withdrawn accordingly. But not all of them. "The protection of the Legation and Consulates has to be provided for, and it is further very evident that until the Korean police and soldiery can be organized and trained sufficiently to be safely entrusted with the preservation of public peace and good order, a certain degree of responsibility devolves upon Japan." But when will the Korean police and soldiery be organized and trained sufficiently to be safely entrusted with the preservation of public peace and good order, or, rather, when will the notables be trained to the proper use of a trained force? Not in the lifetime of the present generation? The contending factions, if left to themselves, would be continually plotting to obtain control of the police and soldiery and to execute *coups d'état* similar to the recent one in which the unfortunate Queen lost her life. That is a state of things that could not be tolerated, and strong rule of some kind must therefore be established and maintained. Hitherto, we are told by our Yokohama contemporary, "Russia has not played the blustering, hectoring rôle attributed to her. That has never been the character of her diplomacy in Japan. From the beginning until the present time she has never raised any official question about the presence of Japan's forces in the peninsular kingdom. Whether her silence in the past warrants any inference as to her conduct in the future we do not pretend to judge. It would

be manifestly opposed to her interests that Korea should become a part of Japanese territory. If she sees reason to apprehend such a contingency, doubtless she will take steps to avert it." The situation therefore is not a very promising one and elements of future trouble are only too plainly visible. If some scheme could be elaborated under which the neutrality of Korea would be guaranteed and a firm and just rule established a grave menace to the peace of the Far East would be removed, but in the absence of any such scheme Korea will remain a bone of contention.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

(23rd November.)

The question of the water supply is one of the most pressing the colony has to face. The Legislative Council meets on Monday and the Governor, in laying the estimates on the table, will no doubt refer to this amongst the other numerous matters that will engage his attention. When it became evident that the existing water supply was inadequate to the requirements of the colony two schemes were brought forward for augmenting it, namely, (1), to increase the storage capacity of the Tytam reservoir, and (2) to pump water to the Tytam tunnel from the perennial stream which joins the Tytam stream some little distance below the dam. It was decided to adopt the first scheme and during the last dry season the height of the dam was increased by 5 feet, the intention being to increase it ultimately by 10 feet. But the rainfall during the summer just concluded was insufficient to fill the reservoir even to its original capacity, so that the raising of the dam will afford no relief whatever during the present dry season. It would be a mistake to regard it as work thrown away, for no doubt in future years, with a normal rainfall, it will prove of great utility; but it is necessary to provide for exceptional years like the present, and for that the pumping scheme seems the most suitable. Would it not be desirable to put it into execution forthwith?

WELLS AND THE SCARCITY OF WATER.

The Sanitary Board at its meeting on Thursday took a common sense view of the well question. There are few wells within the city limits that yield water on which an analyst would give a favourable report as regards its suitability for potable purposes, and on sanitary grounds, if no other considerations entered into the question, it might be desirable to close the whole of them. But water is required for manufacturing as well as for domestic purposes. At present the Government is compelled to limit the supply from the public mains, and although the larger manufactories may be able to make their own arrangements the smaller industries which require a steady water supply must be greatly inconvenienced, inasmuch that the Director of Public Works at the meeting of the Sanitary Board mentioned a case in which an industry had been brought to a complete stop by the closing of a well. It is clearly common sense that if water for industrial purposes cannot be obtained from the public mains the use of wells should be permitted. There may be some risk of water from the wells being used also for domestic purposes, but the risk is one which under

the circumstances should be incurred, all reasonable precautions being taken to guard against it. Where wells are not required for industrial purposes and it is shown that their waters are polluted let them be closed by all means, but where it can be shown that they are required for industrial purposes it is inadvisable that they should be closed, even though there be some danger of the water being also used for other purposes. Should it be found at any time that a well is a real source of danger to public health it can be closed, but while the danger is merely hypothetical it may be faced without much fear. The same rule applies to the water supply as to most other subjects—if the ideally perfect is unattainable we must be satisfied with the best that can be had, and if water for industrial purposes cannot be obtained from the public mains the use of wells must perforce be permitted unless the colony is prepared to sacrifice its industrial interests.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The first meeting of the session of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on Monday afternoon in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

Hon. J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN, Attorney-General.

Hon. A. M. THOMPSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. COMMANDER W. C. H. HASTINGS, Acting Harbour Master.

Hon. A. K. TRAVERS, Postmaster-General.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE, Acting Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBER.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I have to inform you that I have appointed Mr. McConachie as acting member of the Council during the absence of Mr. Bell-Irving.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE then took the oath and his seat.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table a report showing the work done in connection with the bubonic plague, and also a statement of the expenditure.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

Financial minutes Nos. 14 to 31 were referred to the Finance Committee.

SANITARY BY-LAWS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that by-laws made by the Sanitary Board for the compulsory reporting of communicable diseases be approved.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded. Carried.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of the following question:—Will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the Government, including the elaborate despatch of the honourable the Colonial Secretary, and the home officials, and between the latter and the Colonial Government concerning the petition from the ratepayers of Hongkong to the Commons of England praying for reform in the constitution of the local Government, and for the rights and privileges common to the British people in the smallest parish in England or Scotland of settling their local municipal affairs in their own way and to their own mind; as well as copies of all communications on the subject of the appointment of two Unofficial Members to the Executive Council, and two additional Unofficial Members to the Legislative Council?

NEW PEAK ROAD.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of the following question:—With reference to the numerous signed petition to your Excellency, from Peak residents, house owners, and other ratepayers, praying for the construction, with all reasonable speed, of a new road in lieu of the present steep and unsuitable one—really the original mountain path, widened and improved to meet the requirements of a traffic ever on the increase, and which has outgrown the road's capacities—leading from Victoria Gap, passing on the south of "Treverbyn" and "Stolzenfels," on a comparatively easy gradient, and terminating near the Peak Club or Mount Kellet—will the Government inform the Council whether it is proposed to proceed with this very necessary public work, good road communication being very necessary and earnestly desired by the large resident community; state the probable cost of the road, and if the work is not to be undertaken at present, what are the reasons which delay its being carried out?

INTENDED PREMISES FOR THE PO LEUNG KUK.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of the following question:—

With reference to the Colonial Secretary's letter No. 1187 of 27th June, 1892, to the Registrar-General, forwarding a *precis* of correspondence *re* Home for Girls, the following paragraphs appear in the latter—

"Five Chinese houses were accordingly erected near St. Stephen's Church in accordance with plans which the Po Leung Kuk Committee had seen, and which, it was understood, they approved."

"The cost of building these houses was \$8,000; the land on which they stand was valued at about \$12,000."

"There seems to have been some misunderstanding with regard to the rents to be derived from the lower floors, the Po Leung Kuk Committee thinking that they were to go towards the maintenance of the Home, while the Government decided that they were to be paid into the Treasury."

"When the buildings had been completed the Po Leung Kuk objected to move into them because they considered them unsuitable, etc."

and in the report to the Colonial Secretary dated 1st February, 1892, on a petition from the Po Leung Kuk, the Registrar-General says:—

"I understand that it is the intention of the Government to sell the five houses, the top floors of which were intended for a Home. Their value, together with that of the ground on which they stand, has been estimated by the Surveyor-General at \$21,000."

Will the Government inform the Council whether these houses, erected at the public expense, were built upon inland lot No. 1,129, if so, have they been sold by private contract, the name of the buyer, and at what price? In connection with the sale, if there has been one, will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the Government and the Colonial Office on the subject?

THE LICENSING OF PRIVATE VEHICLES.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of the following question:—Will the Government lay upon the table a statement of the number of convictions, the amount of fines imposed and paid, in respect of offences against Ordinance No. 13 of 1895, from the date it came into force until the end of last week, and a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the home authorities and the Colonial Government in connection with the Bill, and also inform the Council whether it has yet received the sanction of the Imperial Government, and if not, state the cause of delay?

PLAGUE REWARDS.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of the following question:—Will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the reports or letters to the Government from the sub-Committee appointed by the General Committee elected at the public meeting held at the City Hall on 27th September, 1894, to consider and report upon the question of recognition of services rendered during the suppression of the plague last year; and a copy of all the correspondence which has passed between the Government and the home authorities in connection therewith.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Having obtained your Excellency's permission to dispense with the usual notice, I beg to ask (1) What are the reserves of water at the present moment, and will they be sufficient at the present rate of distribution to last to the end of the dry season? (2) In view of the great scarcity of water this year and the consequent inconvenience both to individuals and industrial enterprises, are any steps being taken to increase the supply and prevent a recurrence of a similar scarcity?

His EXCELLENCY—Looking at the importance of each question I am prepared to give an immediate answer. The answer to the first question is that the reserve of water is about 240,000,000 gallons. In answer to the second question I may say that the Government is fully alive to the necessity of securing a supply in addition to that which will be secured by improvements at Tytam, and the Public Works Department has already taken steps and is making progress with the necessary surveys and also with the large calculations of cost. (Applause).

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

His Excellency read his opening speech, which was as follows:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council. I have much pleasure in meeting you again for the transaction of public business. The programme that I have to present to you is a somewhat lengthy one. The most pressing item in it is, of course, the Appropriation Bill for 1896. From the Draft Estimates, which I now lay on the table and which were circulated more than a fortnight ago, together with the explanatory memoranda, you will perceive that the revenue for 1896 is estimated at \$2,288,366. This estimate has been prepared with due caution; and I believe that it will be realised.

The total estimated expenditure, on the other hand, amounts to \$2,479,062, of which \$197,200 is for Public Works Extraordinary and chargeable to the Loan. After deducting this sum there remains a total estimated expenditure chargeable to current revenue of \$2,281,862, or an estimated surplus of revenue over expenditure of \$6,504.

The chief increases on the expenditure side, as compared with the Estimates for 1895, appear under the following heads:—

1. Public Works Extraordinary chargeable to revenue	\$90,130
2. Public Works, Recurrent	15,200
3. Public Debt	16,843
4. Military Expenditure	44,215
5. Sanitary Department	12,206
6. Medical Departments	5,921

The first item includes \$30,000 towards the Taipingshan Improvement Scheme, \$15,000 for Public Latrines, \$17,000 for a new Isolation Hospital, a very urgent requirement, \$10,000 towards the extension of the Public Recreation Ground at Happy Valley, and certain sums for the construction and extension of roads at Kowloon. The increase under the second head is partly on account of sewerage works, the extension of the system involving an additional cost for upkeep, and partly for maintenance of waterworks at Kowloon chargeable to Water Account.

The increase on account of Public Debt is due to the contribution to the New Sinking Fund, which commences in October next.

As regards the Military Expenditure the annual contribution has been calculated at 17½ per cent. of the estimated revenue for 1896, exclusive of premia on Land Sales. There is also provided a sum of \$40,000 for "Barrack Services" during the year. I am in possession of the views of the Unofficial Members on this subject, and they are receiving the attention of the Imperial Government. As the matter is still *sub judice*, I would ask you, gentlemen, to vote the sum provided in the Estimates subject to such further representations as you may hereafter have to make, and to such modifications as may hereafter be approved.

The large increase in the cost of the Sanitary Department appears alarming at first sight, but admits of easy explanation. It is on account of the additional staff required for the New Central Market and Sheep and Pig depôts as well as for the cost of lighting the former (\$7,000), for which no provision was made in the Estimates of 1895. Against this increase must

be set the additional revenue derived from the new market and depôts. The increase in the Medical Department is accounted for by the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health, who is borne on the medical establishment.

As a compensation for this additional expenditure various economies have been effected in other directions, notably in the Colonial Secretary's Office, the Registrar-General's Department, the Magistracy, the Police, the Fire Brigade, and under Miscellaneous Services. Numerous offices have still to be dealt with on the lines recommended by the Retrenchment Committee.

In addition to the reduction of establishments, which has already been effected, the salaries of the Treasury staff have been re-adjusted in such a manner as to secure a saving of \$2,246. Reductions have also been made in the Post Office, Stamp Office, and the Supreme Court Office.

From this statement you will gather that no favourable opportunity for effecting retrenchment has been lost, and you may rely on me to curtail expenditure, so far as is practicable, as occasion offers in the future.

And now, gentlemen, having dealt with the Appropriation Bill for 1896, I have to ask you to vote the sum required to defray the Charges of the coming year. If there are any items in regard to which further information is desired, it will be forthcoming in Finance Committee or when the Council is in Committee on the Bill.

I will now make a few general remarks on the condition of the colony. When I addressed you on a similar occasion last year, it was my painful duty to refer to a dismal succession of reverses and misfortunes. We were then only just recovering from the shock of a great disaster, and were but beginning to recognize the absolute necessity of a large measure of sanitary reform. To-day I have to announce to you a great improvement in these matters. The resumption of Taipingshan was perhaps one of the largest works ever undertaken by the Government of this colony. Thanks to the efficiency and tact of the Board of Arbitrators all claims arising under that head have been amicably and speedily settled, the Crown has entered into possession, and the "Improvement Scheme," approved by this Council and by the Secretary of State, is being carried into effect. As I anticipated, the cost of resumption has amounted to \$821,000. Of this sum \$386,000 has been defrayed from balances in hand, and the remainder has been borrowed from Loan and other Government monies in the custody of the Crown Agents, interest being paid at the same rate as the money would earn by temporary investments at home. This course has been considered more economical than, and therefore preferable to, raising a further loan or to an overdraft on the local Banks, supposing such an arrangement to have been practicable.

As regards the liquidation of the outstanding balance of \$435,000 on Taipingshan account, I am glad to state that the receipts up to date are exceedingly satisfactory. The revenue for 1895 will be about \$2,363,000 and the expenditure about \$2,143,000, so that I have reason to expect a surplus of revenue over expenditure at the end of the present year of some \$220,000. If this forecast is correct, there will be a *pro tanto* reduction of our indebtedness, and the year 1896 should begin with a debit balance on this account of \$215,000 only.

In consequence of the improvement of Taipingshan a large area of land will probably be ready for sale in the course of next year, and with an expanding revenue it is to be hoped that the debit balance will disappear at the end of 1896. Then, again, 1897 should witness extensive land sales in Taipingshan, and when the account is finally closed, the result will, in all probability, be more than gratifying. As regards the expenditure on this work, the total cost of which is estimated at \$83,000, a sum of \$30,000 has been provided in the estimates for 1896, and you will be asked to vote the balance when the supply bill for 1897 comes before you. I have now, gentlemen, put briefly before you the financial position of the colony, and having regard to all the circumstances you will doubtless agree with me in thinking that the state of affairs is both satisfactory and hopeful.

In addition to the resumption of Taipingshan other active measures for improving the sanitation of the colony have been undertaken.

The provisions of The Public Health Ordinance, 1887, and of Ordinance No. 4 of 1895 have been strictly and steadily enforced, and upwards of 400 common lodging-houses have been licensed. It would thus appear that the evil of overcrowding has at length, to some extent, been successfully checked.

The enforcement of Ordinance No. 15 of 1894, which gave this Council no little trouble, has been accompanied by a marked amelioration of the sanitary condition of private premises throughout the colony. Accumulations of filth and rubbish, illegal cocklofts, mezzanine floors, and back-yard obstructions have been removed, and the ground surface of upwards of 700 tenements have been concreted.

A special inspection of the drainage of private premises was made in the early part of the year and revealed a most insanitary state of affairs as regards the old drains, whereas the drainage of those premises in which the new system has been introduced was found to be in excellent condition. The re-draining of private premises progresses, upwards of 2,150 houses having been already drained, and with a view to the early completion of this work arrangements have been made by which drainage connections can be carried out by the Public Works Department. Owners should readily avail themselves of this facility.

The work of raising the dam at the Tytam reservoir has advanced, and there is now storage capacity for an additional 40 million gallons of water. Unfortunately the small rainfall up to date has not admitted of this additional quantity being stored. The long and unprecedented drought has been a source of much anxiety to the Government. The rainfall up to the 30th September last was some 38 inches below the average, and some 15 inches below the minimum yet recorded. As a natural result the dry season commences with a water supply of 242,000,000 gallons instead of the usual quantity of 378,000,000 gallons. It has therefore already been necessary to curtail the supply to the city of Victoria by some 1,400,000 gallons daily. By this economy and by close supervision over the consumption of water generally, it is believed there will be a sufficient supply for ordinary wants until the rainy season comes round again. The new waterworks at Kowloon are sufficiently advanced to admit of water being supplied from public fountains to the most populous parts of the district, and a continuous supply is being maintained. When the pumping machinery is erected, the supply will be extended to the higher levels, but at present there is not enough pressure of water to reach them.

The mortality statistics show that the health of the colony is good, and the present year promises to be the healthiest on record, notwithstanding the somewhat alarming prevalence of malarial fever, which is no doubt due to the exceptional drought.

Profiting by last year's experience, and looking to the prevalence of the plague in the neighbourhood of the colony during the early part of 1895, I appointed a Committee of officials to consider what exceptional measures should be taken to protect the colony against the reappearance of the disease, or, in the event of its reappearing, to limit its ravages as far as possible. Temporary hospital accommodation and burial grounds were at their suggestion provided, and arrangements made for the removal of patients, the isolation of those who had been in immediate contact with the disease, and the disinfection and cleansing of infected premises. It was further deemed advisable to prohibit Chinese immigration from certain infected neighbouring ports for several months during the year, but this restriction was not continued longer than was absolutely necessary. The precautions taken against the recurrence of the plague and the timely arrangements made for dealing with it have been efficacious. I am glad to inform you that only 29 cases have occurred during the year, and that at no time was an epidemic threatened.

In accordance with the recommendation of a Committee of enquiry into the Medical department, a Medical Officer of Health has recently been appointed. I regret to state that there

has been some misunderstanding between the Government and the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board in regard to this appointment, and it may not be out of place here to explain briefly the position of the Government in this matter. In my address to this Council on the 28th November last, I expressed my own views, which coincided with those of the Retrenchment Committee, regarding the Sanitary Board as hitherto constituted. I deprecated the division of responsibility which such a constitution involved, and I urged the desirability of placing the sanitary system on a different basis. Some opposition has been offered to my views in certain quarters, and it is not improbable that a compromise will eventually be suggested by the Secretary of State, but as yet no decision has been arrived at. In this uncertain state of affairs, I was unwilling to assign any definite position to the newly appointed Medical Officer as the subordinate of a Body which might at any time cease to exist.

I accordingly adopted the *modus vivendi* which was offered to me by the suggestion of the Medical Committee and which afforded the Government an opportunity of weighing the further recommendations of the Committee in regard to the reconstitution of the medical staff, on which the future position of the Medical Officer of Health must, to a great extent, depend. I should not have thought it necessary to make this explanation were it not for certain insinuations which have been made as to the motives of the Government. There are those who have pretended to see in the action of the Government an attempt to deal a death-blow to the Sanitary Board. I disclaim any such motive, and even had such been my object, I should at least have adopted measures better calculated to effect it—measures which would have left no doubt whatever as to my intentions.

As a matter of fact, however, the responsibility of deciding this vexed question does not rest with me. Having expressed my views, my duty ends, and I can only hope that whatever conclusion may be arrived at, it will effectually secure the sanitary well-being of this community, which after all is our common object.

Turning to other matters of general interest, the shipping returns up to the 30th September last are more than encouraging.

For the first nine months of this year, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, British shipping shows an increase of 378 vessels, aggregating 575,306 tons.

Foreign shipping, with a numerical decrease of 75 ships, also shows an increase in tonnage of 11,887 tons. European vessels have handled and carried some 276,000 tons of cargo more than last year.

There is likewise an increase in the foreign and local junk trades of 178,747 tons and 79,263 tons respectively.

The total increase over last year in the number of ships entered and cleared at this port is no less than 5,551 vessels, aggregating 845,203 tons—a distinct improvement even on the exceptionally good returns for 1893.

The passenger traffic returns show an increase of 25,186 in the number of emigrants, but immigration has fallen off considerably, doubtless on account of the prohibition in force during several months in respect of certain neighbouring ports infected with the plague.

Chinese seamen's boarding-houses have recently been inspected and licensed for the first time, and there are now 67 such houses duly licensed, affording accommodation for 1,120 men.

The criminal statistics are gratifying, and there has been no repetition of the riots which occurred in the early part of last year. The public peace has been efficiently preserved by the Police, and with the exception of the coolie strike, which took place at the latter end of March last in connection with the enforcement of the by-laws for the regulation of common lodging-houses, and the robbery with violence on the 18th and 22nd inst., there is, I rejoice to say, no "Police News" worthy of record.

The firm attitude of the Government during the coolie strike was, however, not maintained without loss and inconvenience to the commercial community, but the circumstances did not admit of concession, and looking to future interests it

will, I think, be generally admitted that the success achieved was not too dearly purchased.

The community is indebted to the Naval and Military authorities for their ready assistance in the emergency, and the Police, as usual, did excellent work in keeping order and relieving the situation as far as possible by providing coolies and cargo boats for the several firms.

With regard to education, it appears that the attendance at the several schools, which fell off last year, has now recovered its normal proportions. Including Queen's College, there are now 16 Government schools and 105 Grant-in-Aid schools (of which latter 10 have been opened during the year), in addition to numerous Chinese "Kaifong" schools.

It has often struck me as extraordinary—not to say discreditable—that, after 55 years of British rule, the vast majority of Chinese in Hongkong should remain so little "Anglicised." I have thus been led to enquire more thoroughly than I have hitherto done into the system of education adopted in the local schools, and I am of opinion that too much attention has hitherto been paid to purely Chinese subjects. With a view therefore of promoting a more general knowledge of English amongst the Chinese the Government proposes in future to subsidise only those schools in which special attention is paid to the teaching of the English language and modern subjects. It is hoped that this will tend to educate the rising generation of Chinese to more enlightened views and ideas, and to dispel the ignorance and blind superstition which have proved and still are proving such a stumbling block to the promotion of their moral and physical well-being.

The silver question remains as much a problem as ever. I had hoped that before this the evils of a depreciated dollar would have been compensated for in some degree by an influx of English capital into the colony, but the stability of exchange appears to be beyond all control, and so long as that is the case English capitalists will probably prefer to assist the apparently failing industries of Lancashire rather than run any risk in industrial ventures abroad. I notice, however, that in Shanghai capital is being readily subscribed for the establishment of cotton mills and other industries, and I could wish to see a similar spirit of enterprise abroad in this colony. With its unceasing water supply the "model settlement" has advantages in this respect which are denied to Hongkong; but there is no reason why local difficulties should not be faced and ultimately overcome, or why this valuable entrepôt of Eastern commerce should not also become ere long a great industrial centre.

Past and passing political events in the Far East are of special importance to Hongkong. The peace of Shimonoseki, which brought the hostilities between Japan and China to a close in May last, has not been unproductive of disappointment, nor is the political horizon yet quite as clear as could be wished. It is to be hoped, however, that the great Eastern problem will work out peacefully and beneficially. In the meantime we may rest assured that the interests of Great Britain and her possessions will be safely guarded and judiciously forwarded by Her Majesty's Government as opportunity offers, and in this connection I would incidentally remark that whilst for a time at least local interests may necessarily be postponed in favour of purely Imperial interests, I have every reason to believe that the questions most particularly affecting this colony have by no means been lost sight of.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I thank you for the patient hearing which you have accorded to me. The period which I have reviewed has been one of activity in sanitary reform and improvement in many other directions. I have looked in vain for the symptoms peculiar to a people "writhing under injustice" and "taxed up to the limit of endurance," and I have discovered only that happy condition of progress and prosperity which usually obtains in a well-ordered community. To the maintenance of that progress and prosperity, to financial economy, to sanitary improvements, and to the furtherance, generally, of the best interests of this community, I shall faithfully continue to devote myself. With your ready and loyal co-

operation, gentlemen, I can safely look forward to some additional measure of success during the term of government that still remains to me.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Sir, I feel sure I am only echoing the feelings of my colleagues when I say that we have listened with the greatest interest to the very lucid and exhaustive statement just delivered by your Excellency. This is hardly the occasion on which to raise points of debate, but I can assure your Excellency that the questions brought forward by you will receive our most careful and serious consideration. One thing I can say now, and that is that our financial position appear to be most satisfactory, a proof I trust that our prosperity is based on a solid foundation.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

His EXCELLENCY—In accordance with the standing orders I have appointed the following Committees:—

Finance Committee—The Colonial Secretary, Chairman; all the Members of Council, except the Governor.

Law Committee—The Attorney-General, Chairman; the Registrar-General, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Hon. Ho Kai, Hon. E. R. Belilios.

Public Works Committee—The Director of Public Works, Chairman; the Colonial Treasurer, Hon. C. P. Chater, Hon. E. R. Belilios, Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

FIRST READING OF BILLS.

The following Bills were read the first time:—

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding two millions four hundred and seventy-nine thousand and sixty-two dollars to the Public Service of the year 1896.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Widows and Orphans' Pensions Ordinances of 1890 and 1891 (No. 30 of 1890 and 18 of 1891).

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Police Force Consolidation Ordinance, No. 14 of 1887.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorize in certain cases judicial investigations into the causes of fire.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the recognition in the colony of probates and letters of administration granted in British possessions.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend "The Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891."

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend "The Cattle Diseases, Slaughter-Houses, and Markets Ordinance, 1887."

ADJOURNMENT.

His EXCELLENCY—The Council now stands adjourned until Thursday week, the 5th December.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held. The Colonial Secretary presided.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The following votes which were recommended by the Governor were approved.

No. 14.—A sum of \$2,400 in aid of the vote for Incidental Expenses in the Sanitary Department. The above sum is the estimated expenditure on the work of the general inspection of house drains in the colony, which is being defrayed from the above vote.

No. 15.—A sum of \$10,000 in aid of the vote "Repairs of Buildings."

No. 16.—A sum of \$1,500 in aid of the vote for "Maintenance of Sewers" (Public Works Annually Recurrent). Note—Increased cost of maintenance due to additions to the sewerage system, which is nearing completion.

No. 17.—A sum of \$3,000 in aid of the vote for "Miscellaneous Works," being approximately the cost of re-building the retaining wall, Seymour Road, which has been charged thereto.

No. 18.—A sum of \$4,460.50, for repairs, &c., to the Hospital hulk *Hygeia*, being difference between the amount spent (\$5,260.50) and the amount voted in the estimates (\$800). Note—Excess due to cost of repairing the extensive damage sustained during a typhoon in October, 1894.

No. 19.—A sum of \$680, being salary drawn by Dr. Bell from 8th June to 15th August, 1895, while acting as Assistant Surgeon in the Government Civil Hospital during Dr. Atkinson's absence on sick leave.

No. 20.—A sum of \$4,600 to meet the following expenses in the Police Department:—For passages and bonuses, \$3,000. For incidental expenses, \$1,600.

No. 21.—A sum of \$5,000 for carrying out certain works in connection with the Taiping-shan improvement scheme.

No. 22.—A sum of \$200 in aid of the vote for "Government Marine Surveyor, Other Charges, coal, oil, and water for steam-launch." Note.—Excess in expenditure due to a rise (of some 33 per cent.) in the price of coal since the estimates were completed.

No. 23.—A sum of \$2,500, for "Maintenance of Waterworks." The above expenditure has been necessitated by the failure of the hydraulic machinery on account of the prolonged drought, and the enforced use of steam power for pumping water to the Hill District. It is chargeable against Water Account.

No. 24.—A sum of \$12,000 in connection with Water and Drainage Works at Kowloon. Note.—It has been deemed advisable to take advantage of the recent favourable weather and to proceed with these works as quickly as possible. The projects have been approved by the Public Works Committee, and the cost is chargeable against the Loan.

No. 25.—A sum of \$1,020 to meet the following expenses in the Sanitary Department:—(1) Uniform for Staff, \$520; (2) Cost of Street Watering, \$400; (3) Market Incidental Expenses, \$100. Note.—(1) Excess over estimated expenditure due to increase of staff in connection with the opening of the Central Market and Sheep and Swine depôts. (2) Excess due to prolonged drought. (3) Excess due to the opening of the New Central Market and Sheep and Swine depôts, which necessitated the purchase of a number of small articles for the sanitary maintenance of those establishments.

No. 26.—A sum of \$217, being travelling allowances to certain Inspectors of Nuisances and Overseers of the Sanitary Department for the Sanitary Department for the current year.

No. 27.—A sum of \$5,000, to cover the cost of lighting the New Central Market during the current year.

No. 28.—A sum of \$29,000, for expenses incurred in connection with preventive measures against a recurrence of the plague.

No. 29.—A sum of \$1,580 to cover the salary and allowances of the newly appointed Medical Officer of Health from 2nd August to 31st December, 1895.

No. 30.—A sum of \$650, in aid of the vote "Harbour Department, Steam Launches, Other Charges, coals, repairs, etc." Note.—The above sum is required owing to the increased price of coal this year (33 per cent.)

No. 31.—A sum of \$3,500 in connection with the construction of a road in Kowloon to be called Salisbury Road. Note.—The construction of this road is binding on the Government, and as buildings are about to be erected in the neighbourhood, it has been considered advisable to begin blasting operations before their erection.

In reference to minute No. 15.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked, Which buildings?

The CHAIRMAN—Government buildings.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—More particularly which buildings?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Government House, Queen's College, and the Hospital, more particularly.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Not the Supreme Court?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—There is nothing very exceptional the matter with the Supreme Court.

On moving minute No. 17 the CHAIRMAN said that there was a hope that the \$3,000 would be ultimately recovered from the owner of the property.

In answer to Hon. E. R. BELILIOS the DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that the cost of the scheme mentioned in minute No. 21 would not exceed \$5,000.

Hon. Ho KAI—Has any part of the money been spent?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Something like \$20 has been spent up to date. The contract has been entered into and the Govern-

ment does not think it would be wise to postpone the carrying out of the scheme, which has been approved by the Council.

On minute No. 28 being proposed.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked—Has the money been expended already?

The CHAIRMAN—Certainly; we could not wait until now to spend the money; it was necessary to take measures at once.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Committee then adjourned until Thursday, 5th December.

THE FIRE INQUIRIES BILL.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday the new Fire Inquiries Bill was read a first time. It repeals the existing Ordinance and re-enacts its provisions with certain alterations. The statement of reasons and objects is as follows:—

"As Ordinance No. 23 of 1888 required two separate Magistrates to carry out its provisions and there is, at present, only one Magistrate, it became necessary to modify the Ordinance. In the circumstances it was considered better to re-draft it, and in so doing to effect certain other amendments.

"In Ordinance No. 23 of 1888, section 6 prevented any use being made of the evidence on the enquiry against any accused person on the subsequent proceedings. It said nothing to forbid such use in favour of such accused person, and the wording of the section was somewhat ambiguous. This section has accordingly been omitted and some other slight alterations have been made."

THE BANKRUPTCY LAW.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday a short Bill was introduced amending the bankruptcy law. It consists of two sections only. Section 1 refers merely to a matter of official routine. The reasons for section 2 are stated as follows:—

"Section 2 seeks to remedy a hardship under the Bankruptcy Ordinance of 1891.

"In this colony cases often arise of Chinese traders in difficulties commencing to remove their goods for the purpose of putting them beyond the reach of their creditors.

"Proceedings taken at considerable expense by a creditor who gets an order of the Court for seizure of the goods may, in the event of a bankruptcy petition being filed, simply result in the preservation of those goods for the general body of creditors at the cost of that particular creditor.

"It seems only just that, in such cases, the Court should have power in its discretion to allow a priority to the costs of the legal proceedings of the creditor whose exertions have thus benefitted the estate, similar to that at present accorded to the costs of the bankruptcy petitioner."

A short time ago a policeman (of the military police) at Canton was wounded by a kidnapper, and died from his injuries on the 14th inst. All the shops in the ward to which he belonged, the ward consisting of seven streets, contributed towards the cost of his funeral, which was on a grand scale for a man of his social standing, and each shop sent a man to join the procession following the coffin, which was carried several times round the streets of the ward. The father of the dead man, the girl he rescued, and the mother of the girl attended in mourning. The mother of the deceased received a present of \$400 from the ward, all the shops contributing. The circumstances of this case are altogether unusual. Two policemen attacked four armed kidnappers, and the deceased, though mortally wounded, secured his man. The action of the residents of the ward also deserves mention. The representative of the ward insisted on the arrested kidnapper being photographed to make sure that he did not succeed in purchasing his release and the substitution of some other man at the execution, as is often done.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon at the offices. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided and there were also present—Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Atkinson (Acting Colonial Surgeon), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF WASHING TANKS.

The Director of Public Works reported on the Tai Hang, Tung Lo Wan, and Pak Shui Wan nullahs now used by washermen as open-air washing places. A number of washermen had squatted in the vicinity of the nullahs, and constructed roughly built tanks, in which the water was very seldom changed at any time, and hardly at all in the dry season. The overflow from the tanks is often very foul, and finds its way down the nullah, stagnating here and there. He therefore proposed to put the nullahs in order and build proper tanks and drains, etc., and impose a small charge on the washermen.

The following minutes were appended—

Mr. Ede—I think the scheme a good one; but will the washermen leave the land, or will they go further afield where they can do their washing without payment for water?

The Acting Colonial Surgeon—Has the Board any information with reference to the establishment in the colony of Japanese laundries?

The Acting Captain Superintendent of Police—A very good scheme.

The PRESIDENT, in reply to the Acting Colonial Surgeon's minute, said that the Board had received no information with regard to the establishment of Japanese laundries in the colony. As regards the proposal contained in the papers, it met the recommendations made by the Board about two years ago. A strict watch was now kept on the water in the various streams in order to prevent the washermen from going elsewhere than to the places they were permitted to use. There were now very few streams within easy distance of the city which would be available for washing purposes at all. He moved that the Colonial Secretary be informed that the Board agree with the proposal contained in the report of the Director of Public Works.

Mr. EDE seconded.

Carried.

CATTLE SHEDS AT KENNEDYTOWN.

A letter was read from the Colonial Secretary stating that plans and estimates for the erection of reception lairs for cattle, sheep, and swine at Kennedytown had been submitted by the Director of Public Works, but in view of the very large expenditure involved his Excellency the Governor was unable at present to hold out any hope of the buildings being undertaken at an early date.

The PRESIDENT said that he would not press the matter in consequence of the heavy cost which would necessarily be entailed.

THE USE OF WELL WATER FOR MANUFACTURING PURPOSES.

An application was received for permission to re-open a well, and in the course of the discussion on the subject the PRESIDENT said—Under the Building Ordinance the Director of Public Works can grant permission for a single well, and he can make such regulations as he thinks desirable for the structure. There are cases in this colony where a well can be legitimately used for certain purposes, and I have had my attention drawn to a manufacturing industry which has been stopped because a proper supply of water can not be got for the boilers. This Board is not going to lay down a hard and fast rule and is not going to close wells simply because a satisfactory guarantee cannot be given that the water shall not be used for any other purposes, but if the Board is advised that the existence of a well is likely to be a source of danger to the health of the colony the Board is perfectly justified in making an order for the closing of that well. I would therefore like you to say that this Board agrees that there are certain cases where it is desirable to sink wells for building and manufacturing purposes and it has no objection whatever to the Director of Public Works exercising the power given to

him under the Building Ordinance to grant permission for the construction of such wells; at the same time calling the attention of the applicant to the fact that the Board has power at any time to cause the water of the well to be analysed, and if it thinks proper order it to be closed. I ask you to concur in the opinion so that I may be able to dispose of two or three applications which I have in hand.

Mr. EDE agreed with these remarks.

The PRESIDENT—I will now move the following resolution—"That this Board is of opinion that the Director of Public Works should in his discretion give permission to sink wells for the purpose of obtaining water for manufacturing and building purposes, subject to the provisions contained in Ordinance 15 of 1895."

Mr. EDE seconded.

Carried.

MORTALITY RETURNS.

For the week ended 9th November the death rate was 29.8 per thousand per annum, as against 20.1 for the corresponding week of last year.

The following note was appended by the Medical Officer of Health—The only feature of importance appears to be the death recorded as due to plague. No cause could be found for this case and the house occupied by the patient was in a fairly clean and well ventilated condition. I am inclined to think that some inquiries should be made by direction of the Board into the alarming number of deaths which are recorded weekly as being due to infantile tetanus at the Asile de la Sainte Enfance, as this is a disease which is largely due to overcrowding and insufficient ventilation.

The following minute was appended:—

Mr. Ede—With reference to Dr. Clarke's suggestion re cases of trismus at the Asile, some very extensive inquiries were made some time ago, and I think these papers should be referred to again before fresh inquiries are made.

For the week ended 16th November the death rate was 29.6 per thousand per annum, as against 20.1 for the corresponding week of last year.

There were no minutes.

THE VENTILATION OF BACK YARDS.

On the 28th September last notice was served on the owners of houses 1 to 8, George Lane, namely, the Land Investment Company, to remove certain obstructions to ventilation about those houses. The obstructions were roofs over the back yards. After ten days had elapsed a letter was written to the Company saying that the notice had expired and it had not been complied with. On the 4th November the Secretary of the Company replied stating that the back yard roofs in question were permanent structures, built with the houses and at the same time. This was in 1888, and they were then passed by the Sanitary Board as having been constructed in conformity with the Sanitary Ordinances. The whole of the block had been lately thoroughly redrained and the floors concreted and the buildings put into a perfectly sanitary condition. The Company therefore requested permission to retain the structures, especially as a good portion of each yard still remained open to the sky.

The following minutes were appended.—

Mr. Ede—I think the obstructions to ventilation should be removed and the air spaces enlarged.

The Acting Colonial Surgeon—What is the width of the back yards in question? The bridges according to the by-law should not exceed 3 feet 6 inches in width, but the Board may grant permission for the erection of bridges of greater dimensions if they think fit.

The Acting Captain Superintendent of Police—Refuse permission and require immediate compliance with the notice.

The PRESIDENT moved that the company be informed that the notices must be complied with.

Carried.

A LITIGANT AND THE BOARD'S BOOKS.

An application was received for permission to inspect a book of the Board. The PRESIDENT said the applicant wished to obtain certain information before he proceeded with an action he was bringing. He (the President) moved that no information be given until the suit had been commenced. He thought that the time of the officers of the Board should not be occupied in enabling persons to see whether they had or had not a good ground for action.

It was agreed to inform the applicant accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until Thursday week.

SUPREME COURT.

20th November.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

JULYAN v. FRANCO.

Peter James Julyan, clerk in the Public Works Department, sued Tilomeno Maria Franco, clerk in the Public Works Department, 9, Robinson Road, for the recovery of certain furniture wrongfully detained; in the alternative plaintiff claimed \$500. Mr. Dennys appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Grist for the defendant.

Mr. Dennys said the facts were very simple, and he had no idea what the defence was. About two years ago the plaintiff got married and he and his wife went to live with his father-in-law, who is the defendant. Some time ago there was a family quarrel and plaintiff left the house, but the defendant refused to give up the furniture which plaintiff had put into his own rooms. The only point in the case was whether plaintiff was or was not entitled to take the furniture away. Perhaps it would save trouble if Mr. Grist told the court what the defence were.

Mr. Grist said the goods had never been in the defendant's possession or under his control. It was perfectly true that the plaintiff went to reside at his father-in-law's house, but he had separate rooms.

His Lordship—Well, may the plaintiff take the furniture away?

Mr. Grist—As regards the defendant, he is perfectly willing to let the plaintiff take it away.

His Lordship—Well, I'll adjourn the case for half an hour; in the meantime plaintiff can take his furniture.

Mr. Grist—The defendant has never stopped him in any way.

His Lordship—Plaintiff can go and get it now then.

Mr. Grist—I apply for my costs, as this case ought never to have been brought.

His Lordship—I'll talk to you about that afterwards.

Mr. Dennys—It is the defendant's house and we cannot get in without his permission.

His Lordship—We will soon settle that point. (To defendant). Will you allow the plaintiff to take away the furniture?

Defendant—I do not wish to interfere.

His Lordship—Will you allow him to take it away?

Defendant said he would, and he was then told to wait in Court until plaintiff had got the furniture.

Eventually his Lordship left it to the parties to settle the case as amicably as possible.

21st November.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR FIELDING CLARKE (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

The public examination of Chan Yat Shun was proceeded with. Mr. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master's office) appeared for the petitioning creditor and the debtor, and Mr. Reece represented creditors.

The Official Receiver's report stated that since the first meeting of creditors held on the 22nd October the debtor had filed a statement of his affairs showing assets \$6,594.45 and liabilities \$31,725.50. The assets consist of three junks which are estimated at \$6,000, and a cargo of salt, valued at \$590.45. The salt had been sold and after paying expenses the sum of \$594.45 was realised. This is claimed by a judgment creditor, and an action is pending in respect of it. Two of the junks were sold and realized \$2,701.65; the third was at Saigon. Claims amounting in the aggregate to \$22,257.82 have been filed up to date.

His Lordship questioned the debtor at some length as to his interest in other junks. He attributed his failure to losses sustained in the salt trade, and said that for the last two or three years every one of his transactions had resulted in a loss, and he continued trading with the hope of being able to recoup himself. He borrowed money from friends when he was in a hopeless state of insolvency.

The examination was adjourned until Monday, and the debtor was told to prepare a detailed account of his transactions in salt.

25th November.

The public examination of Chun Yat Shun was resumed.

In answer to his Lordship Mr. Seth, the Official Receiver, said that since the case was last before the Court the debtor had produced detailed accounts of his transactions in salt. The debtor, examined by his Lordship, first of all said he made up these accounts from a book in Court, but the Official Receiver said that this was impossible as the book had been locked up in a safe. When debtor was told this he said that he made up the accounts from extracts he took from the book some time ago at Yaumati. He had borrowed several sums on promissory notes.

His Lordship—I have a great doubt about the genuineness of these notes. Are any of those people in court your creditors?

Debtor—No.

Mr. Reece—I am instructed that his son has been down here and brought creditors to file proofs.

His Lordship—That is very likely.

The Official Receiver—The debtor himself brought several of his creditors to file their proofs, and I stopped him and said he was not to come to the office until I sent for him.

His Lordship said he would take the debtor's account of his transactions for the past two or three years for what it was worth.

The debtor then said he started business in 1890 with a loan of \$1,000, which he borrowed from friends and relations. He gave a list of the voyages he made since that date and an account of the profit or loss made on each.

The examination was adjourned until Thursday.

COLONIAL COURT OF ADMIRALTY.

20th November.

BEFORE SIR FIELDING CLARKE (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HON. COMMANDER W. C. H. HASTINGS (ASSESSOR.)

LAI PO ON v. THE STEAMSHIP "AGAMEMNON."

The hearing was resumed of the action in which Lai Po On, owner and master of the junk *On Lee*, sued the steamship *Agamemnon* for \$1,400 damages for the loss of his junk, which was run down by the *Agamemnon*.

Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Holmes) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Mr. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master's office) represented the defendants.

The point of difference in the case was whether the junk altered her course, and on Tuesday the plaintiff and his witnesses said the boat did not change her course when the vessel was made out. Yesterday the defendant's witnesses said the junk widened her distance from the starboard bow, and the helm of the steamer was thereupon put hard astarboard. The captain was watching the junk through glasses, and he said he did not think there was any risk of collision until the junk put away off the wind. There was no light, he said, on the stern of the junk.

Mr. Pollock submitted that the people on the junk lost their heads and by unfortunately adopting the manoeuvre of screwing the junk round got under the bows of the steamer. Counsel submitted that the plaintiff had established no fault which had been committed by the *Agamemnon*.

Mr. Robinson contended that it was the duty of the steamer to avoid a junk, and it had not been shown that everything was done to avoid it. If the course of the junk was altered it

was not until within a few seconds of the collision, and the alteration was made under terror.

His Lordship said he was satisfied that there was no light on the junk, and the assessor was of opinion that had the junk held on to her course there would have been no collision. His Lordship was satisfied that the junk did alter her course, and that this alone was the cause of the collision. He was of opinion that the plaintiff's witnesses were telling untruths on the question of the light and also on the question of the look out. He was therefore of opinion that the junk was alone to blame, and judgment would be for the defendants with costs.

COLLISION AT SHANGHAI.

On Friday night a collision took place at Woosung between the P & O steamer *Rohilla* and the Blue-funnel steamer *Hector*. The first named vessel, we hear, was at anchor at the time. No particulars have been received as to the circumstances under which the accident occurred, but both vessels are damaged. The *Hector* went into dock at once and it is probable the *Rohilla* will also have to dock.

THE JAPANESE IN SOUTH FORMOSA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT WITH THE JAPANESE ARMY.]

TAINANFOO, 18th November.

Since writing last H.E. the Governor-General Kabayama has left for Taipei, taking with him all his staff, including Drs. Okuba and Kabayama and the Chief Commissioner of Customs Nimura, &c., &c.

His Excellency went away quietly on the 8th inst. He was unable to visit Takow personally, but sent Dr. Okuba and others to report. They came back charmed with the place and its capacities, and it is said that their report will do much to stimulate the already strong leaning towards restoring that port to its former pre-eminence in South Formosa. Even now, finding it, as they say, more convenient for embarking troops and landing stores, the somewhat small dimensions of the present settlement are taxed to their utmost to provide room for the provisions which are pouring in and the troops en route to Japan. These last comprise the whole Guards Division, which have been marched down, in large detachments, from Tainanfu for embarkation on the transports arriving at about the rate of five vessels per diem.

The most unpleasant, but we suppose necessary, consequence of this adaptation of Takow as port of entry and shipment is the enormous number of sick being brought from Tainanfu and all the surrounding districts for transport to Japan. The house used just now as a hospital would readily accommodate 50 or 60 beds, but as the present concentration often causes three or four hundred to be brought in at one time, the overcrowding and its disagreeable consequences, no less to outsiders than the patients themselves, may be readily imagined.

As a fact, it is found best, as things now are, for the regular Takow residents to temporarily vacate the port until the extreme pressure has modified sufficiently to allow of the most ordinary sanitary requirements connected with the sick and dead being better carried out than just now seems possible. Want of fuel appears to rather seriously interfere with a speedy disposal of the dead, and this alone causes much inconvenience, to say the least. There is no doubt a very great deal to be said on the Japanese side, as they are having to contend with a state of medical affairs which the want of proper house accommodation for the soldiers massed round about Tainanfu engenders. Exposed as these men are to weather and the ever present risks of malarial infection, it is not to be wondered at that the notorious local fever is rampant and producing unprecedented calls both on the medical staff and the crematories.

With the exception, however, of those bowel complaints, inseparable concomitants of the malignant fever for which Anping and Tainanfu are famed, we are glad to hear that no outbreak of epidemic bowel disease has appeared; thus we are still assured cholera, properly

so called, does not exist among the troops, and certainly there is nothing of the kind among the natives.

With the departure of at least 10,000 men (soldiers) and, they say, many of the coolies, it is anticipated that the general strain will soon be lessened, when, if Takow is intended to be an "intermediary base" for the sick of South Formosa, it is most sincerely to be hoped that something will be done towards providing proper hospital accommodation, and, above all, that essential sanitary organization for which we have hitherto heard the Japanese are specially commendable, but for which there is now no provision at all.

On the 14th H.E. Viscount Takashima, Commander-in-Chief of the Army in Formosa and Lieutenant-Governor of the Island, left with all the Headquarter Staff, and with his departure the "expeditionary army," as a whole, ceased. What was the Second Division of this "Southern Army" under General Nogii will remain to garrison South Formosa, and so long as active operations are needed at the various outposts or stations occupied by the military their rule will be supreme at such places. At the main towns or cities the Prefects and sub-Prefects have taken over charge and will act so long as there is no call for military interference, but the numerous minor civil officials who will eventually be distributed over the country have not been appointed yet, and will not be until all need for active military co-operation has ceased. To this extent, therefore, and only in this sense, can civil rule be said to have begun.

Bureaucracy prevails in full force in Japan. The "Departments" are legion, and the jealousy with which each guards its own interests is intense. So long as the military have anything to do with affairs no member of the Civil Department will stir a finger, or express an opinion, and in both services the same extreme exclusiveness exists between the different departments themselves. With many transports lying idle and available, outside steamers are chartered at \$500 per diem, "because the work required does not come under the bureau to which the transports are attached," and so on *ad infinitum*, proving official nature to be the same all the world over, circumlocution being by no means confined to Whitehall, or Washington, or even the British Horse Guards. In this connection, however, it must be admitted that everything man (red-tape bound) can do to meet exigencies and modify disturbing effects on civilians generally is done by that bureau whose special function is to watch over foreign affairs, and that, from the Head Prefect Ferusho, through the genial and ever courteous sub-Prefect Saigo, until at last, but indeed far from least, we come to the ubiquitous hardworking and kindly Chief Assistant Matsumoto, without whose unflinching good humour, earnest, and often effective desire to help all and sundry who apply to him, the restrictions and *non possumus* which must otherwise prove unusually galling to all subjected to them would no doubt have been infinitely more accentuated than they are at present.

It would seem that in the main arrangements the form of future government will be somewhat similar to that obtaining under Chinese rule, but perhaps more closely allied to the French plan where it deviates from the old Japanese system. Thus while there will be but one Prefect in South Formosa—Mr. Ferusho—the districts previously ruled by Shiens (magistrates) will now be presided over by sub-Prefects. As the minor authorities are appointed, however, and begin their rule, you will be duly advised of same, and thus avoid any errors in description which too premature a report might entail.

Large drafts of soldiers are arriving from Japan to fill up the numerous vacancies caused by disease and death in the ranks of the Second Division, and, to judge by the numbers of the new arrivals, the casualties among the troops originally landed must be very much out of proportion to anything previously suffered or anticipated.

Much has been said of the railway which has been already begun at Takow, and which the Corps of Railway Engineers promise "shall be ready in two months." We now find that this rail—a very light one of only 18 inch gauge—

is merely to be run for the conveyance of military stores and provisions, but over all parts of the country, and not only between Takow and Tainanfu. Thus a line is to be started at once from Takow to Hien-chung, passing through Pithau. Both Pithau and Hien-chung are the capitals of the two most southern districts, from whence other lines will be run as necessity arises. Being exclusively for military use no civilian benefits can be expected therefrom so long as the soldiers are operating. Whether the lines may afterwards be opened to the public, for their use, until the permanent roads, both for rail and general locomotion, are ready, cannot be stated yet. The immediate object appears to be to have all the military posts in rapid and easy commissariat touch with each other.

While the farming population, including the Pehphoans, are not only quiet but most anxious for peace and regular rule, the Hakkas, no doubt helped by some of the fugitive soldiery lately under General Liu, are giving a considerable amount of trouble, not so much to the Japanese, however, as to the natives themselves. Different bands of robbers, for they can be called nothing else, have been formed at various points at the base of the hills, whence, from time to time, raids are made on the plain-villages, and these are "held up," large ransoms being demanded by each band of brigands that come along. This has got so oppressive that many of the larger sugar producers are coming into the ports and purpose taking passage to the main land, there to await quieter times! This will no doubt have a most depressing effect on the sugar outturn for next year, especially as the crops are said to have been more or less injured by the typhoons which came in such quick succession in September last. The Japanese are doing all they can to protect the people, and as quickly as possible establishing military outposts along the whole plain land. In the end there can be no doubt the Hakkas and their rowdy associates will have to pay very dearly for their misconduct; indeed, unless they very quickly repent themselves of their evil ways and submit, it seems as though nothing short of their total extermination will result.

As far as their bearing to the quiet and law-abiding natives is concerned, it must be said that the Japanese policy is one of the greatest forbearance and consideration, but if in spite of this, or misunderstanding this bearing, certain or any sections of the conquered public continue to give trouble, and refuse to listen to reason or be conciliated, then I fear they will find that their conquerors have as nasty a side to their nature as is not infrequently aroused in woovers generally whose resentment at rejection engenders a state of feeling at least as intense as, even if the antithesis of, that which accompanied their gentler moods and methods!

The greatest deprivation at present felt by foreigners is the complete usurpation by the military of the telegraph wires between this and Taipeh. This practically puts us back to the anti-gubernatorial period of twelve years ago. It must be said that it would now seem as though the military are pushing their rights rather close to the dog-in-the-manger limit, as, whatever may have been the case during the first week or two of occupation, there can be no doubt but that the main lines, e.g., those from Tainanfu to Takow, and the former city to Taipeh, thence over the world generally, are now lying idle for the greater part of the day, and if only granted as a special favour for an hour or two, the transmission of foreign telegrams would be an inestimable boon to the community here. It cannot be said that there is any difficulty about the lines, as those in which foreigners are solely interested were taken over by the Japanese as they stood in good working order and have since been kept so. All that can be said now is, should these remarks meet the eye of any one able to help in the matter, and if the urgent wants of our commercial world, small though it be, can meet with consideration, such courtesy and benevolence will be most gratefully appreciated. We hear that the cable between Tamsui and Foochow has long ago been repaired, so that there can be no stoppage on that account. When we ask our friends at the different Civil Bureaux for aid in this matter the inevitable reply comes, "We can do nothing, all is in the

hands of the military, who say no, and there, as far as we are concerned, the matter must end." We know that of course the Japanese, in common with other civilized nations, rise superior to the ostrich-like tricks of the Chinese, who used to think that by shutting the lines to us and thus postponing our getting news already in possession of all the rest of the world, they were in some mysterious way helping their own cause or objects. As no such motive can possibly be actuating the Japanese, surely they will, even at some little sacrifice of old red-tape precedent, take pity on us, and once more permit contact with that world from which, in the interests of our new rulers, we have now so long been isolated. Of course, with the various side-lines which run to the military posts all over the country we are not concerned, and no doubt these being necessarily more or less hastily run up on temporary supports may fairly be reserved from public service and criticism until, properly established and organized, the system is beyond risk of causing either inconvenience or complaint.

As soon as the line runs to the south of the island, i.e., to the South Cape Light, and meteorological information can be quickly obtained therefrom, a grand boon will be conferred on mariners and hosts of other interested persons, for then the exact position of approaching typhoons can be rapidly reported all over the surrounding seas and places by the observatories at Shanghai and Hongkong. This has been long desired and urged on the Chinese, but of course with no result, beyond perhaps derisive wonder on their part at anyone supposing for a moment they could be interested in what chiefly, as they supposed, concerned foreigners and the preservation of their lives and property. It is only in the south-west monsoon that such information will have its greatest and most vital value, if we only consider typhoons and such like destructive disturbances, but all the year round there is much useful and interesting information to be got from the comparative statistics of several stations telegraphically united, and we feel sure that no nation will appreciate this more than the Japanese, who will therefore no doubt hasten to fulfil this scientific and even philanthropic desideratum. We have heard our friends say that foreigners seem to expect too much from them "the instant they arrive," but if this be so they have only their previous well-thought out and rapid organisation to thank for so high an opinion being formed of their administrative capacities.

We regret to hear that the Customs is not working as freely and effectively as one could wish. This is admittedly from no want of good will on the part of the officials, who, on the contrary, seem most anxious to do all they possibly can, but working as they are with a tariff and regulations (Chinese) quite new to them, they seem to be utterly lost, and we fear, unless something is done to help them in their bewilderment, a condition unpleasantly like that of a deadlock may probably ensue. It need scarcely be said that properly understood nothing can work more smoothly and easily than the famed system instituted by Sir Robert Hart for his service, and it seems peculiar that on arrival here the new office did not avail itself, if only for a few months, of the assistance of those who had so well and so successfully conducted the Customs during the Liu regime and who would, no doubt, have been willing to give the required aid for a reasonable consideration. If a disinclination to spend the money led to the Japanese officials making the attempt to carry on unaided, then it is to be feared this may turn out to be very mistaken economy and is sure to lead to much worry both for the Customs staff and those dependent on their exertions.

In one of my last communications I gave you some information about the late Republican stamps, and have since heard that such has been found useful and interesting. Although I believe you will find what I then said perfectly accurate, still I have thought it best to extend my inquiries and obtain from the fountain head the full and detailed record of the whole business. Mr. C. A. McCallum, who acted as Liu Yung-fu's Chief of Customs and Director of Postal Service, has most kindly favoured me with the following account taken from the official records, which were scrupulously kept in

the same form and exactitude that had previously obtained under the Chinese system.

It appears that Liu had reason to suspect some person of sending information through the post office (native) and so, in order to give him a pretext for visé, he decreed that no letters should leave the island unless they bore stamps to be issued by his government, and that all letters must pass through the Customs before being sent on board steamers or other vessels for transmission to the mainland. It is said that he did actually by this means discover one or two treasonable communications. Anyhow, the above is a true account of how and why the stamps came to be issued and proves that they were *bona fide* used for postal purposes and were not, as many of those which lately sprang into existence in China, merely got up for the sole intent of preying on the eager philatelists all over the world.

"The first or provisional issue hurriedly got up, as has already been described, were as follows:—Green=3 cents, Red=5 cents, Violet=10 cents. The whole issue was only between seven and eight thousand sets, certainly not more than 8,000, and then the die was destroyed for the reasons already told. These stamps are impressed on thin Chinese paper and are not perforated. Both with this issue and the following one the clearness of impression cannot be taken as any proof of genuineness, indeed very often they are indistinct and barely discernible, but for all that were sold and used. Of the first issue the green were those mostly used for postal purposes. Thus it will be found that many sets of this issue were broken into. According to the official records 9,300 letters passed through the post office during the time the first issue was in use. For obliterated stamps the postal mark used at first was a circle in which are the words 'Taiwan Republic, Tainan,' in centre the date 'Sept.' Therefore, although of course it is quite possible that persons may have stamped letters with the first issue after this obliterating mark had ceased to be used, still it is useful to know that even with the post marks there was this difference, a new obliterating die having been got at the same time as that for the second issue stamps, and then the old post mark ceased to be used from that date.

"Second issue:—Blue (approaching in many cases to black)=3 cents; Red, 5 cents; Violet, 10 cents, but half of this 10 cents issue has been printed in black and in some cases in blue, the violet ink having run short. This fact must be noted. All the above second issue are on paper which has been rather roughly perforated; in fact looks as if done with a sewing-machine, and evidently before the stamps have been printed on their respective spaces, within which they are by no means regularly placed. A total issue of 18,000 sets of these were printed, of which about 8,000 odd stamps of various values have been used postally. The obliterating post mark that first came into use with this issue consists of a larger circle than the first, round which are the words 'Formosan Republic, Taiwan,' but dated October inside. All the paper is un-gummed."

Liu Yung-fu, or someone in his *yamen*, took away with them the die from which the second issue were printed and therefore it is not at all unlikely that they may attempt to continue making supplies from the mainland. It seems very difficult to suggest any plan for detecting or avoiding such false issues, but it may be stated that very strict account of the exact number of each issue printed during the existence of the republic having been kept and the various sales equally carefully watched, the present whereabouts of all the genuine stamps is pretty well known by those who were fortunate enough to buy up all available stocks as they came on the market. Of both old and new issues the only stock in hand now of the true stamps, the pedigrees of which can be officially vouched for and traced, are as follows:—Old issue 3,500 sets; new issue 6,000 to 7,000 sets. Of course second sets have been sold, but as they have all come from the same vendors in Formosa, it may not be difficult to get certified pedigrees in cases of doubt, or at least such information as will enable one to do a good deal towards detecting fraud.

From the foregoing figures, which I must repeat represent the utmost limit of the various

issues, probably some aid may be derived by future purchasers. As to forgeries, there were several started in Amoy, of first issue especially, but comparison with the original, than which the counterfeit is much better and more artistic, enables the fraud to be easily detected. Beyond a very few sets bought for purely personal use, the writer has no interest in the future of these stamps, so the foregoing remarks may be taken as being as impartial as any that can possibly be made at this time.

Other reminiscences of the republic are the bank notes and lottery tickets issued by that government.

With reference to the notes, the face values were written in by hand, the seals and other impressions being the same for all values. We hear something of someone having discovered a mare's nest in the shape of "forgeries" here too, but as this supposition seems to be solely based on some trifling differences in the border patterns, and the discoverer seems quite unaware and unwilling to admit that impressions were necessarily made from two or three successive blocks, it appears highly probable that he has allowed himself to be led away by a too suspicious "native informant." This seems the more likely, as many of the notes he would reject had evidently been in pretty free circulation, are passed by all the Chinese experts who have been consulted, and who also declare their ignorance of forgeries having existed, at any rate to any extent. On the whole, therefore, it seems very probable that this idea may be discounted, and most, if not all, of the notes declared by this amateur expert counterfeit, accepted as the genuine article, issued by Liu and generally taken by the people.

The "lottery tickets" were the outcome of a final and desperate attempt on the part of some of Liu's financiers "to raise the wind," the promise being to pay four times their face value "after the Japanese had been driven into the sea and peace restored." It was truly wonderful how many fools there were who took the bait and bought tickets, some bearing as high a face value as \$200. A Chinese rumour having got or been set abroad first that the Japanese would redeem the bank notes, and next that the property of the wealthy merchant from whose hong they were issued would be confiscated and sold to redeem his notes, led to rather fancy prices being asked for the paper, but now that the truth is gradually becoming known the price has come down to anything from five cents to perhaps even nothing per note, irrespective of its nominal face value.

Mr. P. Auguste Holst, a native of Sweden and ex-officer of the Swedish cavalry, who came to Formosa about three years ago to collect birds in the interest of Mr. Seeborn, the well-known ornithologist, died on the morning of the 16th. For months he had been in a very frail state, but in spite of all advice he insisted on going into the country "to be on the spot if he got better." He must have suffered great privations, through all of which he certainly exhibited indomitable pluck and pertinacity. Both the Catholic and Protestant missionaries showed him the greatest kindness, and it was in the care of the latter body that the poor man passed away, his last hours soothed by all that the kindest and most charitable solicitude could suggest. He was buried on the same evening at the Protestant Mission Cemetery at Tainanfu, most of the residents attending the funeral. The primary cause of death was consumption.

TAIPEHFU, 18th November.

The three-masted ship *Inaho Maru* ran on to a reef in Kelung harbour a few days ago and went to pieces on the 16th in a heavy sea. She was chartered by the Government and had just arrived from Japan with a cargo of railroad materials. The cause of the wreck was the ignorance of the Japanese captain, who apparently was unacquainted with the harbour. It is hoped that a considerable amount of the cargo will be saved.

Savages killed fourteen Chinese and wounded three in the north central districts.

JAS. W. DAVIDSON.

There were 1,943 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 166 were Europeans.

THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

The first concert in connection with the Hongkong Philharmonic Society was given at the Theatre Royal on Saturday night before a fairly large audience. The programme was in every respect high class and the whole entertainment was most enjoyable. But before dealing with the concert itself we would like to suggest to the committee the desirability of making better stage arrangements in the future. To commence with, a conductor, whether he be of fine physique or not, does not look particularly handsome when perched upon an upturned bare camphor-wood box. In the second place the ladies and gentlemen constituting the chorus would be better able to do justice to themselves if they stood on a platform of two or three tiers instead of on one common level; this arrangement would enable the conductor to better perform his duties, as he would be able to stand directly in front of the performers and would also be able to dispense with the unsightly bare box. Moreover there would then be no necessity for the continual shifting of the piano from one side of the stage to the other. We hope the Committee will see their way to adopt these suggestions, as the extra cost would not be very great.

To the performance itself nothing but praise can be given, and each artist won warm admiration, but Mrs. Hagen, who was, we believe, not very well, we have heard sing much better. The duet given by Miss Lammert and Dr. Meadows was perhaps the finest effort of the evening. Both voices blended perfectly together, and the applause which was accorded them at the conclusion was deservedly won. Miss Lammert also gave a solo "The Promise of Life" and as usual her sweet notes enraptured her hearers, who demanded an encore, and Miss Lammert responded with "Sunshine and Rain." Dr. Meadows also gave two solos, and his rich melodious voice was perhaps never heard to better advantage. He was exceptionally fine in the Cavalier songs, in which he was assisted by the chorus of men's voices. Miss Hitching has perhaps no superior in the colony as a pianist. She has a wonderfully fine touch, and her rendering of Chopin's Polonaise (in A) could not have been surpassed by any amateur in Hongkong. Mr. J. Gilchrist gave a correct rendering of "I fear no foe," and there can be no question that in him we have a very accomplished singer. He has a perfect control over his voice and his notes are very sweet. Mr. M. Alsberg's performance on the violin was a charming treat and we hope this accomplished player will come forward many times during the season. The part songs were beautifully rendered by the chorus, and excellent time was kept. The orchestra played three excellent selections, two of them being from Spohr's "Last Judgment." Of the three items we think the third and last was the best and considerable credit is due to Mr. G. P. Lammert for so ably conducting. The accompanists were Mr. George Grimbale and Mr. G. P. Lammert, and as usual they played faultlessly.

A MURDEROUS GANG IN THE COLONY.

ROBBERS ARMED WITH REVOLVERS.

During the past week there have been two exceptionally daring cases of robbery by menace, and it is quite certain that if a policeman had put in an appearance at either time would have been a repetition of the Winglok Street outrage which occurred a year ago. The first case occurred on the 18th inst., when three Chinamen armed with revolvers entered 106, Praya West, and by covering the inmates with their loaded weapons compelled them to quietly submit while the shop was ransacked. The robbers, however, had fortunately entered at the wrong time, as after turning every drawer and box in the shop upside down, the only valuable they managed to find was a watch; no money was in the house. In the second instance the robbers were more successful, and it is probable that the large amount of their booty will cause them to take temporary

rest and refuge on the mainland. The victims were a jeweller and an opium dealer at 124, Wellington Street, and it was at 9.30 on Friday night that the shop was entered. Everything was carefully and quickly carried out and it is highly probable that even if a policeman had been passing the place he would not have suspected anything amiss. The men entered through an unfastened door and instantly pulled out bull-dog revolvers and demanded the inmates—three men—to surrender without noise. The robbers then tied the men's hands behind them with their queues, and then proceeded to search the premises, keeping the victims well under cover of the revolvers and threatening them with instant death if they dared to move. In a safe notes of the value of \$800 were found, and also \$400 in silver. This amount was quite large enough for one haul, and the villains then left without disturbing any of the jewellery. Before going, however, they sternly bade the tied up inmates to keep silence and one of the gang said, "We are disbanded soldiers from General Lin's army, and we have no means of subsistence." So terrorstricken were the men in the shop that they did not raise an alarm until the desperadoes had had sufficient time to get well away. When news of the alarming outrage reached the Central Station a communication was sent to Inspectors Stanton and Quincey, who were at the Odd Volumes' meeting, and they at once proceeded to investigate the crime, but although they worked hard all night they were unable to obtain any tangible clue, and the robbers are still at large. These two cases have not unnaturally caused considerable alarm, as there can be no doubt that the gang would have shot dead the first person who attempted to check them, and it may be they will offer desperate resistance if the police are lucky enough to find their whereabouts. Of course it is impossible to say whether their story about being disbanded soldiers is true or not. In any case it is to be sincerely hoped that the police will succeed in running them to earth, and that the arrest will not be attended by serious consequences to any of our officers. A proof that the miscreants were bent on murder if resisted is shown by the fact that in addition to the revolvers being fully loaded they placed twelve cartridges on the table of the shop in Wellington Street and these they forgot to take away with them. The existence of such a highly dangerous gang as this furnishes abundant support for the police stringently insisting upon the carrying out of the provisions of the Arms Ordinance.

LATER.

The police have not been able to obtain any further particulars respecting the two recent daring robberies in the colony, and it is more than probable that the gang will safely escape, as they left nothing behind them which would assist the detectives in tracing them. In consequence of the robberies a notice has been issued in Chinese stating that the Light and Pass Ordinance will be strictly enforced in future. This edict has already had the effect of clearing the streets of loafers after seven o'clock at night; in fact, the thoroughfares are now almost deserted.

ALICE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals was held on Friday afternoon at the Alice Memorial Hospital to consider (1) the disposition of a legacy under the will of the late Dr. Richard Young, and (2) a petition by the widow of the late Dr. William Young that the Hospitals should resign certain sums to which they are entitled under that will. Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart (Colonial Secretary) presided, and there were also present—Hon. Ho Kai, Rev. T. W. Pearce, Messrs. C. Ewens, G. Murray Bain, C. Palmer, W. H. Wickham, and Dr. Thompson.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and passed, Dr. Thompson read a letter which he had received by the last mail from a firm of solicitors in Lanark on behalf of Mrs. William Young. The letter explained that the late Dr. Richard Young left property valued at £5,400, and a residuary

interest in £310 deposited in the New Oriental Bank to be divided in equal shares among four hospitals, two being in Glasgow, and one in Edinburgh, the fourth being the Alice Memorial Hospital. The £310 was bequeathed subject to Mrs. Young, widow of Dr. William Young, the testator's brother, receiving a life interest, but owing to the collapse of the Bank Mrs. Young had not received so much as was intended, and not more than £200 of this deposit was expected to be forthcoming, of which £100 had already been realised. Mrs. Young therefore petitioned the Hospitals to resign their residuary interest in the £310, in order that she might purchase an annuity, which would amount to about the sum originally intended for her.

Dr. THOMPSON said that there could be but one feeling amongst the Committee on the subject. Dr. Young was one of the early workers in the hospital when it was developing, and it would be an assurance to Mrs. Young that the late doctor's work had not been forgotten if the Committee waived any claim they had to the money.

Hon. HO KAR proposed that the Finance Committee recommend the trustees of the hospital to waive their claim to their share of the reversion of the £310.

Rev. T. W. PEARCE seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The CHAIRMAN said that having disposed of that question it was only right they should in some form show their high appreciation of the handsome legacy which had fallen to the hospital, and which had been sent out in the letter read by Dr. Thompson. The money had come to them unexpectedly, but none the less agreeably, and although it would not altogether relieve the energetic hon. treasurer of his labours in collecting subscriptions it would considerably lighten them.

It was thereupon resolved to request the House Committee to consider the best means of marking their high appreciation of the legacy and of Dr. Young's work. It was also decided to refer the question of the disposal of the gift to the House Committee.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

NANNING-FU.

The following sketch of Nanning-fu, one of the suggested Treaty Ports on the West River, is taken from Mr. F. S. A. Bourne's report on his journey through South-western China:—

Nanning-fu is a well-built city, containing a brisk population of Chinese and Shans, who seem unusually well-to-do, an effect partly due perhaps to the fact that this is one of the few cities that escaped devastation by the Taiping rebels. The merchants are mostly Canton and Kwangsi men. The Shan women, to the front as usual, wear neat black cotton head-gear, dark-coloured clothes, silver ornaments, and bare feet.

If I remember right, Mr. Colquhoun, in the account of his journey in these parts, remarks that his servant returned from a yamen at Nanning, and said he had there heard people talking in a strange tongue. Of the three runners sent to look after me by the Magistrate two were Shans, and Shan No. 6 is a vocabulary taken from one of them. The Shan language is here called Chuang [hua] by the Chinese, a name of which I could get no account.

Commercially, Nanning is the second city in Kwangsi, yielding only to Wuchow-fu in extent of trade, although it has but poor banking facilities, and can scarcely be ranked as a third-rate Chinese commercial city. Besides the trade in tobacco, drugs, tea, sugar, ground-nuts, &c., of which there is a considerable exchange between the Canton province and the country watered by the Yu and Tso rivers, Nanning-fu is the entrepôt of the trade by which foreign goods from Pakhoi and Ch'in-chow are exchanged for opium of Yunnan and Kueichow consumed in Kwangsi and the Canton province. It is with this latter trade that we are concerned in this report.

An unexpected result of this journey is the discovery that Pakhoi and Ch'in-chow supply foreign goods to the whole of South Yunnan, Western Kwangsi, and South Kueichow through regular channels, unchecked at all events by ex-

cessive taxation, although likin in Kwangsi is heavy, and transit passes are not respected. Thus, the Pakhoi and Ch'in-chow foreign imports, valued as far as foreign vessels at the former place go at £383,000 during 1886, supply the wants of a district roughly comprised within a square having Ssu-mao, Yunnan-fu, Fushan-chou, and the sea at its corners—an area not smaller than the United Kingdom. Although no doubt a very large addition would have to be made to the above sum to cover the import in junks from Hongkong and Macao to Pakhoi and Ch'in-chow, the smallness of the figure even as it stands can scarcely astonish one who has traversed this district, inhabited principally by Shans, Lolos, and Miaotzu, who want nothing but salt and cotton, almost the whole Chinese population having been destroyed in the rebellion. But if Pakhoi holds her ground, a large and rapid increase in her foreign imports may be confidently expected, as the fertile valleys of Yunnan and Kueichow are peopled by Chinese immigrants from Szechuen and Hunan, who, like all Chinese, will demand foreign piece-goods as soon as they have spare money to spend on luxuries.

From Pakhoi to Nanning there are two roads followed by foreign goods; the first is by sea to Ch'in-chow in one day, and from Ch'in-chow overland by porter to Nanning in five days. This is the route followed by lighter goods. A Yunnan man told me that the five days' road was level, and that it might be followed by carts. Carriage by this route from Pakhoi to Nanning was said to cost about 18 cash a catty. The second road between Pakhoi, Ch'in-chow, and Nanning leads, to start from Pakhoi, to Ch'in-chow by sea in one day; from Ch'in-chow to Lu-wu Hsu three to four days in boats that carry up to 10,000 catties; Lu-wu Hsu to Nan-hsiang on the West River above Hêng-chow three days by porter; and from Nan-hsiang to Nanning six days by the West River, i.e., fourteen days in all, three by land and eleven by boat. This Nan-hsiang route (with variations apparently from Pakhoi to Nan-hsiang) is followed by the heavier piece-goods, cotton yarn, and metals.

Nanning is connected with Canton by the Hsi-chiang (West River), which might be navigated by light draft steamers as far as Wuchow. The up-journey from Wuchow to Nanning is made by boats drawing three Chinese feet in seventeen days and the return journey in ten days.

The great highway of foreign imports from Pakhoi and Ch'in-chow to the north is from Nanning to Po-se, the route we have just followed, the passage taking twelve to twenty days according to the wind. The boats on this route draw as much as 2 feet 5 inches Chinese, and carry as much as 60,000 catties. Thus the transport of cotton yarn, for instance, between Pakhoi and Yunnan Fu, would be made as follows:—

	Land.	Water.
Pakhoi to Nanning	3	11
Nanning to Po-se	—	15
Po-se to Po-ngai	—	3
Po-ngai to Kwangnan-fu	8	—
Kwangnan-fu to Yunnan-fu	12	—
	23	29

A railway along this route would meet, I believe, with no serious difficulties; indeed, this is probably the easiest line that a railway to ascend the plateau could take.

The commercial capabilities of the Tso-chiang require careful study, because along it lies the only route worth mentioning between Kwangsi and Tonkin; and in its neighbourhood will no doubt be situated the trading station "to the north of Liang-shan," to be opened under the Franco-Chinese Treaty of 1885. The Tso-chiang is navigated by good-sized boats as far as Tai-ping-fu, and by smaller boats as far as Lungchow, which place bears to the commerce of the Tso-chiang much the same relation that To-sé does to that of the Lu-chiang. Lungchow is reached from Nanning in twelve to eighteen days. The country is mountainous, and the stream badly obstructed by rapids, which are much more numerous and more difficult than on the Lu-chiang. Above Lungchow the river is navigated across the Tonkin border by small boats that carry 3,000 catties, and are worked by six men. The voyage down from Lungchow to Nanning takes six to nine days. The trade

on the Tso-chiang consists of cotton yarn, piece-goods, and Canton goods, in small quantities, up; and timber, beans, rice, star-anise, and drugs, down. The trade on the Tso-chiang is said to bear the proportion to that of the Lu-chiang of three to seven. There is some trade in drugs, &c., across the Tonkin border.

THE GERMAN FIRMS AND THE ARMS ORDINANCE.

At the Magistracy on Thursday, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Mr. R. Marten, of Messrs. Radecker and Co., Wyndham Street, was summoned for selling arms for export without a permit.

Mr. H. L. Dennys represented the defendant, and Mr. E. J. Grist watched the case on behalf of the firm purchasing the arms.

A broker named Ng Un Tong spoke to purchasing the arms from the defendant and paying \$180 for them. There was a case of ten rifles and witness had no licence to possess or carry arms, nor an export permit. He got the money from the Yik Li shop at Macao. All the rifles came from America.

Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police, said that no export permit had been applied for by Messrs. Radecker and Co., as was required by the Ordinance.

In answer to Mr. Dennys witness said this was not the first prosecution of any importance under the Ordinance; it was the first time, however, that a seller had been prosecuted for not obtaining a permit from the Superintendent of Police. He could not say for certain whether any of the foreign importers of arms had applied to him for permits, but he had signed about two thousand export permits up to date; the greater number were for Chinese. He did not think that any German firms importing arms from America or Europe had applied for export permits, but Messrs. Lane, Crawford and Co. had obtained a permit. Up to this prosecution he had not drawn the attention of the German importers to the provisions of the Ordinance, but the law on the subject should be known by the firms.

Detective Sergeant McIver spoke to finding the case of rifles on the *Heungshan* on the afternoon of the 9th inst. There was no export permit, so he took the case to the station, where Ng Un Tong claimed it.

Mr. Dennys said it was not known by the German firms in the colony that it was necessary to take out a permit. The import trade was practically in their hands, and this had been the first intimation that it was necessary for them to take out an export permit.

Mr. Stolterfoht, of Messrs. Stolterfoht and Hagan, said he had been in business in the colony for over twenty-five years, and remembered the Arms Consolidation Ordinance being introduced in the Legislative Council. He and the other German arms importing firms made representations to have the provisions modified. He and Mr. Garrells had an interview with the Acting Attorney-General—first Mr. Leach and then Mr. Wise—acting on behalf of their Chinese clients. At that time they were given to understand that the Ordinance would apply only to the Chinese dealers. None of the German firms so far as he knew—and he had made inquiries—had ever kept a register of their transactions in arms. He had never understood that a register should be kept, and such a thing had never been called to his attention.

For the defence Mr. Dennys dwelt upon the fact that the Ordinance had been in abeyance since April.

His Worship pointed out that the Ordinance was published in the *Government Gazette*, and therefore the Government was relieved of the duty of bringing it directly to the notice of the persons affected.

Mr. Dennys urged that his client was ignorant of the law on the subject; he had technically broken the law and therefore a nominal penalty would meet the case. None of the German firms in the colony had ever asked for a permit.

His Worship was satisfied that the offence had been proved, but he did not think it was a case for a heavy penalty. A fine of \$10 only would be imposed.

The defendant was then fined \$10 for failing to keep a register of the sale of arms. This offence was admitted, Mr. Dennys remarking that in future a register would be kept.

SERIOUS OFFENCE AGAINST THE SHIPPING ORDINANCE.

At the Police Court on Thursday, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Captain Schupp, the master of the steamship *Martha*, was summoned for leaving the colony with 162 passengers on board in excess of the number allowed by his port clearance. It was proved that the thirty-four persons stated in the clearance were the crew, and that the defendant took 128 Chinese passengers to Swatow, charging them \$2 each. This was on the 17th October last.

His Worship (to defendant):—What have you got to say?

Defendant—When I cleared the ship there were no passengers on board; they came on the next morning.

His Worship—Why didn't you make them go off?

Defendant—I did not know I was not allowed to take more than twelve.

His Worship—Didn't you read the clearance?

Defendant—Yes.

His Worship—What did you say?

Defendant—I said there were no passengers.

His Worship—Why did you say that?

Defendant—Because there were no passengers on board at that time.

His Worship—That shows that you knew you had to put passengers off if they came on.

The witness said he had only twice before been in the port and was not well acquainted with the regulations.

The Acting Captain Superintendent of Police—The ship is chartered by Bradley and Co., but they had nothing to do with the passengers, who were charged \$2 to Swatow. This is a small vessel and would have no life-saving apparatus whatever on board; that is the object of the passenger certificate. Messrs. Bradley & Co. had no interest whatever in the passage money.

His Worship—In this case I must inflict a fine of \$100. It will be very much heavier next time, as you are really liable to a fine of \$200 and \$5 for each passenger—a total of about \$800 altogether.

THE ODD VOLUMES SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the members of the Odd Volumes Society was held on Friday night at the Hongkong Hotel. His Excellency the Governor presided, and there was a large attendance. The business consisted of the passing of the report and accounts and the election of the following officers for the ensuing year:—President, H.E. Sir W. Robinson; Vice-Presidents, Major-General Wilson Black, Dr. Cantlie, Colonel Mulloy, Mr. J. J. Francis; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. E. Pollock; Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. H. Purcell; Committee, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Messrs W. C. Barlow, E. H. Sharp, and F. Browne. It was unanimously resolved to reduce the annual subscription from \$5 to \$3. The transaction of this business occupied but a few minutes, and the members then adjourned to the dining room, where a smoking concert was held. Before convivialities commenced,

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS said—Your Excellency and gentlemen, I have been asked to propose a toast this evening which would perhaps have been better entrusted to one more thoroughly acquainted with the Society, its aims and objects. I have, however, none the less pleasure in proposing "Success to the Odd Volumes," and have no doubt it will find a responsive echo in the breasts of all present. (Applause). I take it that the Odd Volumes is primarily a literary and debating society, though I have not heard its aims specially defined, but the name is certainly suggestive. Moreover, at the many meetings held in the past, very interesting subjects have been discussed with a good deal of vigour, and I certainly think these debates are likely to prove both useful and instructive, calculated to assist and develop the oratorical

powers of the coming race of colonists. (Applause). They also serve to educate our young men in colonial and imperial questions, to broaden the intellect, fire the imagination, strengthen the memory, and quicken the understanding. (Applause). Meetings of the kind held by this Society are eminently educational and at the same time help young men to acquire confidence and extend their knowledge of men. Far be it from me to disparage books, more especially when speaking of and to "Odd Volumes."

"Dreams, books, are each a world; and books, we know,

Are a substantial world, both pure and good;" but we can also learn much from interchange of thought, ideas, and sentiments. The Odd Volumes may in that way, let us hope, become complete works, possibly compendious and even portly, absolutely distended with knowledge of the great world of literature. I am glad to see the Society is increasing in numbers and that it is now on a sound and I hope permanent basis. It owes very much to the hardworking founder, Dr. Cantlie, and it is also greatly indebted to the aid and countenance so freely accorded to it by the President, whose presence and support have so greatly stimulated its growth and sustained it in vigour. (Applause.) For my part, I can only say I wish the Society a steady increase in prosperity and shall at any time be glad to lend it any support in my power. In conclusion I beg to propose "Success to the Odd Volumes" and to couple with the toast the name of its President, His Excellency Sir William Robinson. (Loud applause.)

The toast was enthusiastically drunk, and the guests rose and sang "For they are jolly good fellows," and also gave three hearty cheers and the "tiger."

HIS EXCELLENCY, in responding, said—Gentlemen, I have had a very unexpected call and I promise not to detain you more than a few moments. I am deeply indebted to the hon. member for proposing this toast, and I have to thank him on behalf of the Odd Volumes for the kind manner in which he has spoken. He has explained the objects of the Society most fully, and I have also to thank him for coupling my name with the toast and for wishing success to this important Society, which had its origin from a very small beginning. He said that this Society would assist the young men of Hongkong, and he hoped there would be a responsive echo in the breast of every man present. The responsive echoes can be easily shown by you by taking out \$3 each. (Laughter). The hon. gentleman also spoke about the good influence which this Society had had upon the young men. In looking round these tables I cannot help thinking that there is also some good influence even in whisky and soda. (Loud laughter). We wished, gentlemen, to have Dr. Cantlie, our most energetic member of the Council, with us this evening, but unfortunately he was prevented from coming by illness; and I am sure you will all be very grieved to learn of the serious illness of one of our most learned members, Mr. Francis. That he may soon recover is, I am sure, the wish of you all. (Applause). In conclusion, gentlemen, I am quite certain that the success of the Odd Volumes is assured, and I have to again thank the hon. gentleman for his kind remarks. (Applause).

At the conclusion of his Excellency's humorous speech the smoking concert was given, and several enjoyable items were contributed during the evening. At the interval his Excellency made a remark which made those present roar with laughter. He said, "Gentlemen, there will now be an interval to allow you to replenish your glasses. The balance of \$147 which I spoke to you about at the meeting has been almost dissipated, but the Odd Volumes are perfectly happy in the knowledge that they can fall back upon the support of Mr Belilios."

From Takow we learn that there is danger of an epidemic there owing to the number of sick arriving daily from the country, and the foreign community have been compelled to leave the settlement and take refuge in Anping. General confusion prevails at Takow, in consequence of the immense quantity of rice, &c., being landed from the transports and the embarkation of troops returning to Japan.

OLIVER'S FREEHOLD COMPANY, LIMITED.

The statutory meeting of the shareholders in Oliver's Freehold Company, Limited, was held on Saturday, at noon, at the registered offices, 36, Queen's Road Central. Mr. J. D. Humphreys presided, and there were also present Messrs. C. Ewens (Solicitor to the Company), J. A. Jupp (Acting Secretary), G. R. Stevens, R. Shewan, C. H. Grace, E. Georg, H. E. Temkins, H. Rustonjee, G. H. Potts, E. S. Kelly, and A. H. Mandell.

THE ACTING SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, this is merely a formal meeting to comply with the conditions of the Companies Ordinance. As you are aware the Company was formed to purchase land and mines near the Lachlan River, N.S.W. The plan of the property particularly referred to is before you. I have personally inspected the property, in company with a mining expert whom I have known for over forty years and in whom I have the greatest reliance. I am sure that you have a splendid property from the start, and that it will be best for you to develop it. I may say that I have already engaged the services of reliable men, one of whom has been trained by myself in this office, another whom I have known for the past forty years, and another whom I shall secure for myself as soon as his present engagement is completed. With this staff at my disposal I am sure I shall be able to develop your property to the best advantage, and you can decide what you are going to do with it later. The property at the present moment, without the machinery it has on it, is very valuable, but it has machinery on it which is worth nearly the amount you paid for it, and this is let so that we have no trouble with it and receive a profit. This is let for a sum which returns a good interest on the present small capital, say about 12 per cent., so that even on the present lines you have a fairly good investment without doing any more. I should think that when this land comes to be worked by people who understand how to do it, without wasting any money and without losing their heads, you will find you have one of the most valuable mining properties in New South Wales. If you then care to sell it you can secure a very good sum. I think at present the best way will be to develop it economically, in the way any miner who expected to earn his living off it would go to work on it. Conducted in this way I think we shall before long realise a good return from our purchase. A large amount of gold has been taken off the land some twenty years ago, close to the surface, but it requires capital to work when you go some little distance below the surface, because there is so much water from the underground watershed of the Lachlan River. I may conclude by saying that you have a very good water supply; I may say almost too considerable a supply. I shall be pleased to answer any questions if it is in my power.

In answer to Mr. RUSTONJEE the CHAIRMAN said that he could not tell for certain what percentage of the gold taken out of the works on the ground by the contributors was paid to the Company. The amount was either five or ten per cent. The percentage was fixed. It was no use yet to put the property on the London market; there had been an agent of a London syndicate in treaty for it, but it would be first advisable to give the property a good trial.

This concluded the business of the meeting and a vote of thanks was then passed to the Chairman.

The Indo-China Company's new river steamer *Kut Wo*, intended for the Yangtze trade, arrived here on Thursday, having made the run up from Singapore in seven days, notwithstanding the adverse monsoon. She is a steel vessel, of 1,883 tons register, built on the Clyde. She has three decks, five bulk heads, triple expansion engines, and two single ended boilers of 160 lbs. pressure. Her horse power is 350 nominal, and her coal consumption eighteen tons a day. Her journey out was accomplished in quick time, and on her trial trip she attained a speed of 12½ knots. She will proceed to Shanghai in a day or two. Her commander is Captain William Young.

THE WOOSUNG BAR.

The following memorandum relating to the navigation of the Shanghai River and the Woosung Bar by Mr. E. A. Hewett, Acting agent of the P. & O. Company at Shanghai, is published with the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce:—

The need of a River Conservancy Board had been fully recognised by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, who have already addressed two letters on the subject to the doyen of the Consular Body, and it is unnecessary therefore for me to enlarge on this subject, but I would submit recent events have proved more conclusively than ever how very important it is that full control of the river should be in the hands of a Board, with power to draw up regulations for its safe navigation, and also to enforce upon all vessels an observance of the same without respect to nationality or status.

One point, however, to which I would draw special attention is that all vessels while entering or leaving this port should be in charge of duly qualified pilots, holding certificates issued by the Conservancy Board. This I think has been most clearly shown by the collision which recently took place at Woosung between the Chinese man-of-war *Wantai* and the steamer *Birkhall*, by which the latter was sunk. In support of this statement I would refer to the finding of the Naval Court of Enquiry on the above collision, which was published in the *North China Daily News* of the 18th July.

I am aware that most ships visiting this port are in charge of licensed pilots, but a case was recently brought under notice of a commander who left the chief officer to take his steamer over the Bar, while the pilot did not join the vessel till after she was anchored at Woosung. I believe I am right in saying that the chief officer in question had only once previously visited Shanghai.

This is not, I am given to understand, a solitary instance, but that "outside" vessels are not infrequently moved up and down the river without pilots, the result being that we are in constant danger of having the Bar blocked through the navigation being carried on by men not sufficiently familiar with the waters. Although the wrecks of the *Nora* and *Feima* have now been removed, and the Feima Channel again declared open to traffic, the Woosung Bar has silted up to such an extent that even in the deepest channel we cannot, during the coming winter, expect more water than was obtained on the old Bar last May after the *Nora* had been sunk and the Feima Channel blocked.

The Committee of the Chamber will thus readily understand it is most important vessels should be carefully navigated in order to minimise the possibility of accidents, but the very frequent cases of stranding on or near the Bar, which have recently taken place, show that there is still great room for improvement in this respect. If all these cases were carefully enquired into it would probably be found that in the majority the stranding was caused through a small vessel forcing the one of deeper draught out of the main channel. It was to this cause that the loss of the *Nora* was attributed by the Customs authorities.

Although none of the recent strandings on the Bar have led to serious obstruction, still, whenever a vessel takes the ground, a ridge is raised, which at this time of the year will not wash away, the consequence being that the silt forms and, for a time at all events, appreciably decreases the depth of channel.

With reference to your letter of the 14th of August addressed to the doyen of the Consular Body on the subject of the Conservancy of the river, I understand that up to the present no answer has been received; should the authorities, however, still maintain they are unable to carry out the wish of the Committee of the Chamber, I would suggest that letters on the subject be sent to the Chambers of Commerce of London, Liverpool, and other cities interested in the trade of this port, and further that the agents of the various shipping companies should be asked to bring the matter before their principals, so that they can, if they think fit, call the attention of their respective Governments

to the present unsatisfactory conditions under which the navigation of these waters is carried on.

While on the question of the Shanghai river I may perhaps here be allowed to refer to the scheme recently brought forward by M. de Martean for constructing a canal from the Whangpoo to the Yangtze, noticed in the local press. You will perhaps remember that the matter was briefly referred to between us a few days previous to the last meeting of the Chamber. In the absence of details it is, of course, impossible to satisfactorily discuss the question, but as the improvement of the Shanghai river cannot offer any very great engineering difficulty, it resolves itself purely into a question of dollars and cents, ways and means.

The present tonnage dues of 40 Haikwan tael cents per ton are already so heavy it is a question whether we are not fully justified in insisting that under no circumstances should we be called upon to pay still further, and also whether the Chinese Government is not by treaty legally bound to keep open the approaches to the port at whatever cost to themselves, without increasing the charge on the shipping. It is, however, quite certain that unless the foreign trade of Shanghai is prepared to contribute something towards the additional expense of improving the river, the Chinese Government will continue supine as they have been for the last thirty years.

The shipping community is at present put to great additional expense through having to carry on so much of their work at Woosung, and they would therefore probably be quite willing to pay an extra tax for a limited period of years in order to effect a permanent improvement upon the present state of affairs, but I think it will be found that we cannot afford so costly a scheme as that of M. de Martean is likely to prove, however beneficial it may be in other respects.

The proposed canal, it is reported, will be from three to four miles in length, the cost of which, together with all necessary bunding, jetties, plant, etc., etc., may reasonably be expected to amount to at least three or three and a half million taels, interest on which if calculated at 6 per cent. would amount to Tls. 180,000 or Tls. 210,000.

The total tonnage entered at the Shanghai foreign Customs during the twelve months ending 30th June last was 3,446,000 tons. Even should so high a charge as 5 candareens per ton (each way) be levied on vessels using the canal, this would only bring in a revenue of about Tls. 345,000, of which some Tls. 200,000 would be absorbed in interest, leaving barely Tls. 150,000 for working expenses, up-keep, and sinking fund, a sum which would seem inadequate. The result would be that the community would be saddled for an indefinite number of years with what would appear on the face of it to be an unnecessarily expensive scheme. It is safe to assume that an equally effective remedy might be found in dredging (or otherwise) at a much less sum; Messrs. Escher and de Ryke brought forward a plan for improving the Shanghai river which was described in their report dated Osaka, 28th February, 1876; this is believed to be feasible, though they appear to have considerably under-estimated the cost, which they put between Tls. 254,000 and Tls. 272,000.

I would remind you that should the canal dues both ways amount to one mace per ton this means an increase of nearly 25 per cent. on our present port dues.

In spite of the heavy expenses now entailed on shipowners through having to work their vessels at Woosung, they would probably strongly object to being called upon to pay so much for overcoming the present trouble.

The burden of making the canal would fall chiefly on the shipping, for although a certain proportion would no doubt be paid by the Chinese Government, this would not presumably be a very high percentage of the yearly sum required. The total foreign tonnage dues collected in Shanghai are under Tls. 300,000 per annum, and in their present financial condition it is improbable that the Chinese Government could afford to contribute any very considerable sum towards the cost of the canal.

There is another point which may have to be considered in connection with this proposed canal, which is that in the event of the canal being constructed the lower reach may become a back-water and silt up to such an extent as to render it impassable except at high tide for anything except small boats. Even at present at low tide it is not always possible to take tugs drawing 9 feet 6 inches or 10 feet over the Bar.

It is to be hoped that even should M. de Martean's scheme prove acceptable to the authorities, full opportunity will be given to the Chamber of Commerce to consider the details in all their bearings before anything definite is decided upon.

E. A. H.

The covering letter was as follows:—

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.
Shanghai, 22nd October, 1895.

Dear Sir,—Referring to our conversation of yesterday morning with reference to the navigation of the Shanghai river, I venture to place before you, in the accompanying memorandum, a few points in connection with this matter which I am of opinion might, with advantage, be considered by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce at their next meeting.

I should be glad therefore if you would kindly give this your consideration.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

E. A. HEWETT,
Acting Agent.

A. P. McEwen, Esq.,
Chairman,
Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

The minute on the subject in the Committee's proceedings was as follows:—

Navigation and Conservancy of the Whangpoo:—A letter on this subject from Mr. E. A. Hewett, the Acting Agent of the P. & O. Company, was laid before the meeting and duly considered, and it was determined that the Chamber would in due time deal with the several points brought forward.

FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB v. H.M.S.
ÆOLUS.

Although at the commencement of this match the Club were playing only nine men it soon became evident that one team was considerably the stronger. The Club kicked off and at once began to press, but the ball going behind gave the Navy a little breathing time. A good run by Townsend brought the ball to the goal line and it was then directed towards the goal, and Mackay receiving it on his head directed it under the posts. The Club now playing ten men began to press the *Æolus* very severely, but an excellent shot by Oliver was well fisted by the naval custodian, and their forwards running up made their first attack on the Club citadel and a corner was conceded. Nothing came of this, but a few minutes afterwards a corner was obtained by the Club. The ball went about twenty yards from goal, but it was well shot in, and several kicks were interchanged. Finally the goalkeeper fisted it, but only on to Mackay's head, which again effectually disposed of the obstacle. Changing over, the Club playing a full team had the game entirely in their hands. The Naval stronghold was continually besieged, and although its defender did his best, his post proved to be of a most onerous description. The excellent centring by Townsend enabled the Club forwards to put in several well-directed shots and shortly after the restart Lammert successfully overcame the defence. A run out of goal proved fatal to the Navy and again their colours were lowered by Deacon. The Club's rear division had until now shared but little in the game, but the Navy, with four points to the bad, put on a spurt and enabled the Club's backs to get rid of a little of their chilliness. The efforts, however, proved unavailing, as the passing was wild and the shooting

erratic. The ball falling in front of goal Deacon shot it under the bar. Townsend now took the ball along the line and having dribbled it past all his opponents he took an excellent shot, which the goalkeeper turned away to a short distance only. Firth then took it and the score was again increased. Give-and-take play followed for the remainder of the time, and when the whistle blew the Club had won the match easily by six goals to nil.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG C.C. v. GARRISON.

This match was played on Friday and Saturday last and resulted in a decisive victory for the Garrison by one innings and 82 runs.

For a few seasons past the Club have been more than able to hold their own against the Garrison and not since the days of poor Captain Dunn, Lieut. Boyle, and Quartermaster Sergeant Jeffkins, who were lost in the ill-fated Bokhara, have the Garrison been able to put such a strong combination in the field.

The Garrison, with the exception of Surgeon-Major Reade and Lieut. Saunderson, were well represented, but the Club team might have been materially improved, A. S. Anton, E. W. Maitland, and T. Sercombe Smith being absentees.

Winning the toss, Captain Sales, the skipper of the Garrison team, of course elected to bat first, an undoubted advantage on a fast and true wicket. Campbell and Fergusson were the first to open the attack and after some slow steady batting Fergusson was bowled by Lowson for 12, with the score at 15. On Knox joining Campbell a good stand was made and the pair by patient cricket raised the score to 61 before Campbell was caught smartly at the wicket by Arthur off Gillingham for 21 runs. Just before Campbell's retirement he should have been easily caught and bowled by Darby. The Rev. Vallings joined Knox, but did not stay long, being run out in attempting a fifth run off of a fine drive made by him. Knox was now partnered by Burton and for a long time the run getting was painfully slow for the spectators, the bowling being well on the wicket and no liberties being taken. With the total at 134 Burton had the bad luck to be bowled off his pads by Firth and retired for a careful 18. Percival was soon caught off Allenby, who has a very questionable action in bowling, his fast deliveries looking uncommonly like throws, and then Eccles joined Knox 13 minutes before time, during which period he placed no less than 34 runs to his credit by vigorous hitting. With about 60 runs to his credit Knox should have been caught by F. Maitland at third man and just before time was called on Friday both Knox and Eccles might have been taken by Firth off Lowson in the slips.

Resuming on Saturday Knox and Eccles soon obtained a complete mastery over the bowling and the latter gave one of the most vigorous displays of batting ever seen on the ground. Knox continued his cautious style of scoring and it was not till the total had risen to 312 that he was captured at the wicket by Arthur off Maitland for 118 runs, and he must be congratulated on obtaining his century after just missing it by one run when playing for the Rifle Brigade against the Club a fortnight ago. His innings, which occupied 3½ hours, is worthy of all praise and he is undoubtedly one of the hardest men in Hongkong to get out and of great value to any side.

On P. G. Davies joining Eccles the scoring was very fast and at 12.25 p.m. Eccles decided to declare the innings closed for 338, only six wickets having fallen. He carried out his bat for 131 and, barring the difficult chance in the slips already referred to early in his innings, he made no mistakes, and his fearless and clean driving was a real treat to those who were fortunate enough to witness it.

The less said about the bowling and fielding, particularly the latter, the better for the Club. The chances missed were not easy ones, excepting Darby's already referred to, but the fielding towards the latter part of the innings was very slack and many boundary hits should have been easily saved.

There is little to be said about the two innings of the Cricket Club, for with the exception of Gillingham (not out 32 in the first innings) and Allenby (46) and Darby (41) in the second, no one could stand against the slow deliveries of Vallings and the fine fast bowling of Green.

The former's analysis in the first innings (8 wickets for 73) reads extremely well, considering the hard state of the wicket, and Green bowled consistently well in both innings and his analysis would have read much better if three or four easy chances had not been missed off him.

Two of the Club men (Mast and Mounsey) did not bat in the second innings, they not being on the ground, and as the last wicket fell just eight minutes before time they would probably have saved the innings defeat had they not left.

We hope the severe thrashing will stimulate the Club men to practice hard in the hope of winning the return match. Several of the regular players on the Club side are never seen at the practice nets, and it is not surprising that the form shown by them in matches is disappointing when they never take the trouble to try and get their eyes in at the nets.

During Saturday afternoon, by the courtesy of Colonel St. Paul and the officers of the Rifle Brigade, their Band played a pleasing selection of music.

Full score is appended.

THE GARRISON.

G. D. Campbell, H.K.R., c Arthur, b Gillingham.	21
Capt. Fergusson, R.B., b Lowson	12
C. W. Knox, R.B., c Arthur, b F. Maitland	118
Rev. G. Vallings, run out	7
Sergt. Burton, R.B., b Firth	18
C. Percival, R.B., c Mounsey, b Allenby	11
Capt. Eccles, R.B., not out	131
P. G. Davies, R.A., not out	12
R. Alexander, R.B.	12
G. Paley, R.B.	12
Private Green, R.B.	19

Total for 6 wickets, ... 338

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs	Maid.	Runs	Wides	N.B.	Wicket.
Lowson	16	3	61	—	1
Firth	30	14	61	—	1
Darby	20	3	60	—	—
Gillingham	15	3	53	—	1
Ellis	3	—	10	1	—
Mast	5	3	5	—	—
Allenby	7	3	24	2	1
Powell	6	1	23	—	—
F. Maitland	4	1	17	—	1

H.K. CRICKET CLUB.

M. C. Allenby, R.N., c Campbell, b Vallings	10	b Alexander	48
C. M. Firth, c Eccles, b Vallings	14	c Knox, b Vallings	9
J. A. Lowson, c Percival, b Vallings	16	c Campbell, b Green	2
F. Maitland, c Paley, b Green	1	st Paley, b Burton	2
S. L. Darby, c Campbell, b Vallings	14	run out	41
R. Arthur, c Percival, b Vallings	15	c Fergusson, b Alexander	1
E. Mast, st Paley, b Vallings	15	absent	1
J. R. Gillingham, not out	2	b Green	5
E. C. Ellis, c Vallings, b Alexander	4	not out	6
K. W. Mounsey, c Knox, b Vallings	4	absent	—
S. Powell, c Percival, b Vallings	8	b Green	11
Extras	5	Extras	4

Total..... 124 Total..... 127

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs	Maid.	Runs	Wides	N.B.	Wicket.
Vallings	23	5	73	1	8
Green	16	3	33	—	1
Alexander	6	2	12	1	1
Green	14	2	40	—	3
Vallings	7	2	20	—	1
Davies	6	—	22	—	—
Alexander	7	—	14	—	2
Burton	7	—	27	—	1

THE ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The following are the times made in the race on Sunday:—

ROUND POINT INTO KOWLOON BAY.

	H.	M.	S.
Meteor	12	2	45
Dart	12	3	09
Ladybird	12	5	05
Princess	12	6	35
She	12	9	02
Erica	12	9	50
Stella	12	9	54
Payne	12	21	10
Arrow	12	31	14

KOWLOON ROCK.

Meteor	12	11	54
Dart	12	12	20
Ladybird	12	14	14
Princess	12	15	35
She	12	19	00
Erica	12	19	07
Stella	12	20	20
Payne	12	30	15
Arrow	12	39	14

MARK BOAT, FIRST ROUND.

Dart	1	51	30
Erica	1	53	20
Meteor	1	54	9
Princess	1	55	3
Ladybird	1	58	29
She	2	3	1
Payne	2	8	46
Arrow	2	9	45

ROUND POINT INTO KOWLOON BAY.

Dart	2	19	47
Erica	2	20	40
Princess	2	24	58
Meteor	2	25	55
Ladybird	2	29	35
She	2	33	0

KOWLOON ROCK.

Dart	2	28	10
Erica	2	28	58
Princess	2	33	22
Meteor	2	34	20

FINISH.

Dart	4	6	18
Erica	4	7	30
Princess	4	12	22
Meteor	4	22	53
Ladybird	4	24	32
She	4	25	15

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

Owing to the rebellion of the Mohammedans in Kansu, Viceroy Tan Chung-lun has lately sent a large quantity of arms and ammunition under the charge of the Superintendent of the Naval and Military Academy to that province.

As robberies are daily reported in Canton, the directors of the various Po-kap-kuk have applied to the Provincial Judge for arms and ammunitions for the defence of the place. The Provincial Judge has ordered them to make up a report of the arms and ammunition in their possession.

In the village of Kong-mi in Sun-tak district there live two clans named Li and Lo, who were formerly on friendly terms with each other. Each party gathered all the farmers and the people of the lower class and a general fight ensued. The people belonging to the Lo clan were outnumbered and defeated and about fifty houses were burnt by the Li clan. The Lo clan wanted to seek for revenge and hired the Hakka people, who are well known for their warlike quality, to the number of about a thousand. The people belonging to the Li clan hearing this, immediately sent to the districts of San-oi and Fatshan for reinforcements. About one thousand five hundred men belonging to these places came to their assistance and on the 18th instant a big fight took place. This time the Li people were conquered and lost about fifteen men and about one hundred houses were destroyed. The Lo clan lost four lives. It is reported that the Magistrate of Sun-tak district went to the village with soldiers the other day to stop the fight.

The funeral of Ma Pi-in, late Governor of Canton, took place on the 19th instant. It was attended by Viceroy Tan Chung-lun, the Tartar General, and all the other civil and military officers. The coffin is now placed in a pavilion in Tin-tse-ma-tau, awaiting any steamer belonging to the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company to be carried to Shanghai and from thence to the province of Honan. It is said that the son of the deceased has made a coffin stand which will prevent the coffin from rocking about during the voyage. The coffin stand was carried along the streets on the 18th instant and if any gate was too narrow for it to go through, the gate had to be broken down. A riot has recently broken out in Ta-yang-shan, in the district of Yeung-kong. The San-sh of the place have come to Canton and asked

the protection of the officers. A military officer named Wong has been ordered to go with two hundred soldiers to the place.

A few days ago more than one hundred robbers made an attack on a house in Ta-kong-hu, in the district of Namhoi. When they were in the act of breaking the door of the house, the people in a neighbouring house fired at the robbers and two of the scoundrels were shot dead. The robbers got angry and at once broke into the neighbouring house. When they got in they seized the son of the master of the house and put him to death.

The salt-fish guilds are now carrying on business as usual. On the 17th inst. they all opened their shops for business. They have promised to pay a fixed sum to the Government every year.

The people of Fatshan have hired three hundred and sixty native policemen at the expense of the landlords and householders for the defence of the town.

ILLEGAL TAXATION OF FOREIGN GOODS AT FOOCHOW.

The following communicated article appears in the *Foochow Echo*:-

A rumour is current among the Chinese to the effect that the Chinaman Chen, who has obtained the monopoly, as published in our issue of the 12th ult., of levying the illegal tax of 10 cents on a case of kerosine oil is going to revolutionize the trade in foreign articles, and that, as is reported, after setting the oil squeeze in its proper trim, he is going in the same manner for the trade in lead and iron. After so doing he will carry his project southward.

He has even said that he does not care a bit for the Consuls, for the goods were sold to the Chinese, and it may be well, even so, to ask the exact interpretation of the tariff rules in cases of imports, which *inter alia* say "no further duty will be leviable upon imports so certificated, no matter how distant the place of their destination." Yet, in spite of the transit certificate, the kerosine oil was subject to this illegal tax. It is not stopped in time it will encourage the Chinese to find something more to their advantage, and it is well for foreigners to look out in handling foreign imports.

It is reported that on Saturday last one of the brokers and a boatman were seized by the Hai-fong at the instigation of the instigation of Chen, for which the boatman was bamboozed with 1,000 strokes while the broker was released through the strong remonstrance of one of the Consuls, whose country produced the oil. It is again reported that Chen will not give up the monopoly until he has fought the battle to the bitter end.

RAILWAYS AND POLITICS IN SIAM.

The King of Siam's newly aroused interest in railway affairs may probably lead to results which will go far towards deciding the fate of this country. Let it be well remembered that whichever power is able to control the railways of Siam that power will also control the politics and later the internal affairs of this country. It is now asserted on somewhat good authority that the Glenkoi-Chiangmai extension is on the eve of being handed over to a London firm. If this comes to pass we shall have to congratulate British diplomacy on a remarkably smart move and our local representative for great tact and energy of character. We may take it for granted that the Siamese are alive to the importance of the step they contemplate, and that by handing their intended line to the north to an English company they have quite made up their minds as to the sauce with which they shall be served up. So far, however, we believe nothing definite has been decided, for it is the habit of the Siamese to prognosticate on all things good, bad, and indifferent. There are, however, indications that after the usual period of hesitation the work we have before referred to will be taken in hand, and a grand diplomatic success will be scored and an important commercial impetus given to the fine undeveloped regions of the north. We

shall have rapid and intimate intercourse with Burmah, and the rest will rapidly follow in the wake of the iron horse. Every friend of civilization and progress must wish the project well, for after all it is for the diplomatists to fight for the honour of leading the van and hurrying forward such excellent projects. But the main point is to secure the progress.

To many persons who have lived in Bangkok any length of time and followed political events with any interest, the new drift of affairs ought to prove interesting. They may look back upon the time when Germany made so determined and fruitless a struggle to gain a railway footing in Siam, and the defeat of all such efforts by the Siamese. What at one time promised a fruitful field of railway exploitation for Germany and for German engineers and railway material has become of late somewhat of a commercial Sahara to German hopes and projects. And the future wears even a more sombre hue than the late past for German enterprise in this country. The Siamese will have none of it. And they allow no occasion to pass to show their contempt for the feebleness of the people who were once on the eve of securing so much in this country. The former kindness of expression has been replaced by a cold and contemptuous neglect, a galling snubbing of their former railway friends and a rude neglect of all their approaches. Even the friendly cup of tea has not yet been offered to the once powerful German interests in this country. It is more than passing strange to see how completely the German element in Siamese politics has been relegated to the cold ante-rooms of Siamese neglect, how utterly impotent this element has become to move by a hair's breadth the trend of the smallest event in this country. Germany has practically ceased to exist in Siam, from a political point of view, for the last three or four years, and when her existence has been forced on public attention it has been in the character of humble mendicant with *chapeau bas* suing for the smallest of favours in the humblest of tones. "What a fall was there, my countrymen," if we only turn our eyes back for the last five years. And as things shape themselves there is no sign of any attempt of recovering the lost position. Nay, there is no shade of a shadow of a sign that the good people who have thus been relegated to oblivion and inactivity have the least idea of their true position or of the humiliation of which they are the unconscious victims and miserated objects.

We have, however, little now to do with this aspect of the question. To-day the game is in the hands of England and she is evidently determined that no bungling or no vacillation shall wrest the golden opportunity from her grasp. She has seen and watched the sleepy lethargy of her neighbours, she has keenly observed the lay of the land, and maturing her plans has silently pushed forward her projects and formulated a policy based on something more substantial than the dancing to native piping. Our mercenary neighbour in the East has been caught napping, and with many good trumps in her hand is likely to lose the game as things go. Not three months ago our affairs were playing into the hands of France, but since that time events have moved rapidly and the Lion will in the end be found to have been remarkably wide awake despite the sneers and jeers at his apparent apathy in the past. The importance of carrying on the present line to Chiangmai cannot be too strongly insisted upon nor too strongly supported. It will change the face of this country both commercially and politically; and though there may be those who will regret the approaching rout of the party who have so strangely neglected their chances and who have been so very neatly snubbed in this country, still there is reason to rejoice at the prospect of progressive work in Siam. While as to the people on the left bank it is nobody's business but their own if their opponents steal a march on them and secure a position which may be deemed impregnable against the most determined assaults.

There is another aspect of the question which is equally important, and which we believe the Siamese are approaching very warily. We

refer to the reception of such a scheme by her Eastern neighbour. Siam does occasionally profit by the mistakes of others. She has seen the plight of Burma despite the beautiful treaty executed with M. Haas, and she is not quite so lost to all reason as to neglect the most elementary precautions. Hence we have some grounds for believing that the expected sanction to the proposed extension, although urgently pressed on all sides, will be prudently delayed until the Siamese have carefully sounded their French friends. They are perfectly aware that the treaty-making Theebaw did much to "forestall his date of grief" by neglect to consult both sides, and the Siamese, we believe, are determined not to be caught in so egregious a blunder as that committed by their foolish neighbour Burmah. So we may have to await yet some little time before this excellent project receives the royal signature to its adoption. How the people in occupation of the east bank and who may find themselves threatened by such a project will take the new idea we would not like to hazard a guess. If, as we are so often told by local scribes, the French are sick of their possessions in the Far East and rather indifferent to the left bank and all its advantages, then we imagine that they will regard the new extension of Siamese railway building with a good-natured or indifferent eye, and the Siamese may safely go ahead with a light heart. If, on the contrary, the French Colonial party are not nearly so insignificant as we are led to believe and that their councils are all-powerful, then, of course, the whole matter assumes a different aspect. For be it remembered, what is often-times lost sight of, that this country is practically occupied by a French force and that Chantaboon is not very far from Bangkok. We may be blamed for thus pointing out the fly in the honey jar of Siamese railway joys, but it is just as well that a question of this importance should be seen from many sides, and although we strongly support the proposed extension as being an excellent undertaking for the country from a commercial and civilizing point of view, we cannot at the same time refrain from pointing out one of the grave difficulties with which the Siamese are confronted and which they must overcome before they can undertake the construction of the Glenkoi-Chiangmai extension or the Bangkok-Chiangmai line.—*Siam Free Press*.

THE QUEEN OF KOREA.

Much interest attaches to everything connected with the unfortunate lady, lately known as Queen of Korea. The following account of a first visit to Her Majesty, made by Dr. Annie E. Bunker, appears in the *Korean Repository* for October:-

During the visit of Mrs. H. G. Underwood and myself to Her Majesty on the 14th of September, we saw the Queen Dowager and she gave us each a handsome golden-embroidered *chumoney* or purse. Our visit to Her Royal Highness was in the same place where some years ago I went to see the Queen. Many changes have come since then and the Queen now lives in a new building, beautifully lighted with electricity, in another part of the grounds.

It is just nine years ago this fall since I was first, in company with Dr. H. N. Allen, the King's physician, called to visit Her Majesty the Queen. She had been ill for some time and they had sent to Dr. Allen for medicines. As there was no improvement in her condition the doctor assured them that, in order to treat Her Majesty properly, she must be examined, and so the writer was called.

It was a lovely autumn day, when in the early afternoon we started for the palace in our sedan chairs, with our *keysos* (soldiers) running ahead and clearing the way. My heart was thumping vigorously, and I wondered how I would be received, half fearing the ordeal.

On our arrival at the outer side gate of the palace wall, we had to get out of our chairs and walk quite a distance, about a quarter of a mile, I should judge, to the reception hall. As we neared the place we were met by Prince Min

Young Ik, whom I had met, and who, having travelled much, knew something of the customs of foreigners.

He showed us some of the beauties of the palace grounds and after our walk around the artificial lake he escorted us to the waiting-room and there had us served with foreign food, Korean fruit, and nuts.

Soon a messenger dressed in court costume came for me and, Prince Min accompanying me, we started for the audience hall. We first crossed a large open court which I noticed had large potted plants around three sides of it, but not a spear of grass growing in it anywhere. Ascending a flight of broad stone steps, crossing the narrow verandah and stepping over a high door sill, I found that we were at one end of a long, wide hall, the floors of which were covered with the soft, beautiful, figured Korean matting which is such a fine article and so hard to obtain. At the farther end of the hall I saw a large number of Koreans, men, women, and young girls. I made my three bows as I advanced and then found myself in front of the company, among whom I soon singled out Her Majesty, and for the rest of that visit I had eyes for no one but her. In later visits I learned to distinguish the gentlemen from the eunuchs, and also the ladies-in-waiting by their peculiar head gear and their fine skirts of silk gauze. The immense chignons worn by these ladies are objects of wonder, not only as to size but also as to how the intricate windings and braidings of the glossy strands are accomplished. One evening while witnessing some of the delightful and peculiar posture dancing done by the dancing girls at the palace, I asked one of them if her chignon was not heavy—"Oh," said she, "it is very heavy and makes my head ache." These head dressings vary in shape; sometimes they are long and narrow and then again they have large lateral loops.

The Queen, beautifully dressed in silk gauze skirts, with strings of pearls in her raven locks, a lady, short of stature, with white skin, black eyes and black hair, greeted me most pleasantly. She had on no enormous head-dress, but only her own glistening locks twisted in a most becoming knot low down on her neck. She wears on the top of her forehead her Korean insignia of rank. All the ladies of the nobility wear a similar decoration, but of inferior quality and workmanship. To me the face of the Queen, especially when she smiles, is full of beauty. She is a superior woman and she impressed me as having a strong will and great force of character, with much kindness of heart. I have always received the kindest words and treatment from her and I have much admiration and great respect for her. After first asking if I were well, how old I was, how my parents were, if I had brothers and sisters, and how they were, she proceeded to tell me that they had been told by Dr. Allen of my arrival in Korea: that she was much pleased at my coming and hoped I would like the country. All of this conversation was carried on through an interpreter, who stood, with his body bent double, at the back of a door where he could hear but not see.

Prince Min, who had been standing by, now had a chair brought for me and I noticed that at the back of Her Majesty there was a foreign couch. The Queen telling me to be seated, sat down on this couch and then came the medical part of the interview.

I had noticed that two gentlemen had seated themselves when the Queen sat and when I got up to leave, they with Her Majesty rose and returned my bow.

Prince Min conducted me back to the waiting room and there I waited for Dr. Allen, who was having an audience with His Majesty. When he returned I learned from him that both the King and Crown Prince had been present during my interview. I was very glad that I had not known who the gentlemen were, for I fear my composure would not have been even such as it was. After being served with more food and fruit we were each given a certain number of soldiers to accompany us home and also, as it was dark, lantern bearers. The sight of the Korean lantern with its outer covering of red and green silk gauze is very picturesque, and as we passed many a dusky head

peeped out through opened doors and windows to see what it all meant. The empty dark streets with the dark low houses on either side, the lantern bearers of the doctor's chair and of mine with the attendant soldiers carrying their rifles made a picture at once interesting and unique. In recent visits we are permitted to go through the large front gate into the grounds and right up to the waiting room door. Upon arriving here tea, coffee, and fruit are served and then we are called in to Her Majesty, who receives us in one of the smaller private apartments. The King and Crown Prince are always present. After the interview we are permitted to proceed home immediately.

HONGKONG.

The Legislative Council session was opened on Monday when the Governor delivered an important speech in which he reviewed at some length the events of the past year. During the week there have been two cases in which an armed gang have entered shops, and in one instance \$1,200 was carried away. The Sanitary Board met on Thursday. On Friday evening the members of the Odd Volumes Society held their annual meeting, which was followed by a very enjoyable smoking concert. On Saturday evening the Philharmonic Society gave its first concert at the City Hall and it was a great success. The first meeting of Oliver's Freehold Company was held on Saturday.

The Norwegian steamer *Framnes*, which left Bangkok on the 2nd November, arrived on Thursday, having been delayed by the bad weather. She had to put into Tourane for coal.

The steamer *Macduff*, which left Singapore on the 7th inst., arrived on Friday. Like other vessels from the South she was delayed by the bad weather and had to put into Saigon for coals.

The master of the steamer *Wuotan*, which arrived at Singapore on the 11th inst. from Hongkong, reports having picked up three Swatow fishermen in distress sixty miles off Hongkong.

The Shell line tank-steamer *Pectan*, Captain Hocken, which arrived on Sunday brings out the largest cargo of oil that has ever been shipped in any one vessel. She carries 6,400 tons of oil in bulk, equal in quantity to 220,000 cases.

Monday's meeting of the Legislative Council was attended by a large number of ladies and gentlemen, among whom were Major-General Black and Mrs. Black, Surgeon-Colonel Preston, Mrs. Preston and Miss Preston, Lady Clarke, and Mrs. J. H. Stewart Lockhart.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Choi Tse Mei	\$25
Anon.	10
Der A. Wing	2

A new rule under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance is notified in Saturday's *Gazette*. The object is to prevent boats with dangerous goods lying alongside the wharves for long periods. It will be remembered that a short time ago the Magistrate found that under the old rule it was impossible to convict in a case in which a boat lay alongside a wharf selling kerosene by retail.

An organ recital was given at the Union Church on Monday afternoon by Mr. George Grimble, and although musical events have been somewhat frequent in the colony of late, the church was packed, amongst those present being his Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson. Mr. Grimble chose some most excellent selections which he played to the best advantage, and won the praise of his hearers. He was assisted by Miss Lammert, Dr. Meadows, Mr. Gilchrist, and Master Charles Plinston, the last named being a boy chorister who possesses a ringing soprano voice. The vocalists created a most favourable impression, and altogether the whole performance (which was given in aid of the organ fund) was most successful from a musical point of view, and we hope it was also a substantial financial success.

Her Majesty's approval of the River Steamers Ordinance is announced in the *Gazette*.

The captain of the German steamship *Petrarch* was fined \$25 at the Police Court on Monday for anchoring in the central fairway on Sunday. The defendant pleaded that the ship had been in Aberdeen Dock and when discharged she was towed out by the Dock Company and dropped in the central fairway. He did not have steam up at the time, and he was not aware that the vessel was anchored in an unauthorized place, as this was his first visit to Hongkong.

A correspondent wishes to call the attention of the Sanitary Board to the filthy condition of the Chinese hotels or eating houses in the colony. He gives a list of establishments frequented by well-to-do Chinese, which he says have never been washed or whitewashed, and the smell from the sharkfins which they keep in stock is, he says, not only sickening but dangerous to the public health. He suggests that the houses should be visited by officers of the Sanitary Board to see that they are kept in a state of cleanliness.

At the Police Court on Saturday a Chinese quartermaster on the *Loosok* was charged with being concerned in the robbery of \$1,400 belonging to Captain Jackson. Last Tuesday a cash box and a dispatch box which were in the captain's cabin were broken open and money, notes, and other valuables, worth altogether \$1,400, were stolen. Three quartermasters who had obtained leave were suspected, and when the prisoner, who was one of them, knew that a warrant was out against him he surrendered. It was clear, however, that he had had nothing to do with the robbery, and so Captain Jackson asked for his release, and the application was granted. The missing quartermasters must have had knowledge of the affair; indeed it is most likely that they committed the robbery themselves. The police are now anxious to find them.

On Friday night the following crews were picked for the German Cup at the forthcoming Regatta of the V. R. C.:—*Shamrock*: D. F. McCarthy, A. H. Barlow, H. J. Gedge, G. C. Klinck, J. H. Hance (cox). *Kornblume*: J. B. Grimes, G. Mollison, O. Stewart, L. A. Rose, W. Hardwick (cox). *Leek*: R. F. Lammert, E. Bischoff, W. A. Stopani, A. A. Alves, F. W. White (cox). *Victoria*: G. C. Hayward, G. H. Potts, J. C. Cameron, H. E. Hayward, R. Henderson (cox). *Thistle*: H. Skött, E. August, T. Meek, F. H. Kew, A. E. Alves (cox). The following coxswains were selected for the Chairman's Cup crews:—E. D. Sanders, A. E. Alves, J. B. Grimes, P. Hyndman, G. C. Hayward, R. Henderson, P. Skott's F. W. White, R. F. Lammert's F. H. Kew. Practice will take place as follows:—Monday, Chairman's Cup; Tuesday, German Cup; Wednesday, open; Thursday, Chairman's; Friday, International, Saturday, open.

Chan Kiong, an expectant district magistrate, came down on the *Kwonglee* from Shanghai on his way to Canton. When the vessel reached this port she was boarded by excise officers, who found twenty-five taels of prepared opium in Chan Kiong's cabin. The gentleman was absent at the time, and it seems that he suspected the visit of the officers, and went ashore. He then entered a licensed opium shop, bought a dollar's worth of opium, and took away the certificate which was given to him. This he altered in order to make the officers believe that it referred to the opium he had on board, but unfortunately for him this impudent fraud was easily discovered by reference to the counterfoil, and he was thereupon locked up. He became very indignant at this treatment, said he was a mandarin, and threatened to cut off Police Constable Langley's head should that officer pay a visit to Canton. When before the Magistrate the first time he denied the offence of smuggling the opium and he was remanded in order that he might call witnesses. While in gaol he attempted to hang himself, but this method of depriving the Chinese service of a worthless officer failed, and so he was again taken before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith on Saturday. The defendant appeared very submissive then and said he did not wish to call any witnesses. He was accordingly fined \$150. The money was paid.

At twenty minutes to eight on Thursday night the Fire Brigade turned out to a fire at 111, Praya West, a building of four storeys. The outbreak originated in the second floor, which is a birds'-nest shop carried on by the Fuk Mau firm. The first and top floors are used as boarding houses and the third as a paper shop. There was fortunately a plentiful supply of water, as, owing to the nearness of the shop to the sea, both the floating and steam fire engines were got quickly to work; in addition the fresh water was turned on. The Brigade, under Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings and Mr. Badesley, worked hard for nearly three quarters of an hour, by which time the fire was subdued. The whole building, however, was completely gutted, but the houses on either side did not appear to have been damaged. The origin of the fire is unknown. The ground floor of the building was insured in the Commercial Union Assurance Company (Mr. McBean, manager) for \$2,200, and the second floor, where the fire broke out, was insured with Messrs. David and Co. in the South British Fire Insurance Company for \$2,000. The other two floors were not insured. At the Magistracy on Monday Mr. T. Sercombe Smith held the inquiry respecting the fire. The premises were ordered to be released as there were no suspicious circumstances attending the fire.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	6,549,428	6,130,346
Amoy	330,015	601,040
Foochow	11,175,408	14,357,248
Shanghai and Hankow	18,508,263	18,137,336
	36,563,114	39,225,970

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Amoy	9,489,775	14,128,541
Foochow	6,066,651	4,626,555
Shanghai	25,663,412	22,817,764
	41,219,838	41,572,860

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	27,240,863	22,555,223

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	28,789,475	26,929,936
Kobe	17,871,446	14,660,393
	46,610,921	41,590,329

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 21st November.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular.)—London advices dated 19th current report the market "dull," and quote Gold Kilings at 8/0 and Blue Elephant 10/9. Raw Silk.—Our market has come to a complete standstill. Except in Yellow Silks nothing has been done. Owners of Tsatlees are continuing firm, and as stocks in the interior are unimportant they are probably expecting to resell there, as old contracts are not completed by a long way. Yellow Silks.—Business have been done at unchanged, but firm rates. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 14th to the 20th November, are 602 bales of White, 202 bales of Yellow, and 75 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—No business reported. Wild Silks.—A fair parcel of Chefoo light Tussah Raws (Coarse) changed hands at Tls. 115. Waste Silk.—The market has been quiet during the week, as suitable stocks are small and new arrivals are coming forward slowly; 400 piculs of Long Shangtung Waste (whole bales) have changed hands at Tls. 20½ and a similar quantity of Compoo Frisonets 60, 80, 10, were taken at Tls. 19. Gum Waste sorts are enquired for, but at the moment stocks are exhausted. Pongees.—A fair business is passing at late rates and holders are now trying to obtain an advance on most qualities. Purchases include:—Yellow Silk.—Mienchow at Tls. 275, Kopun at Tls. 245, Fooyung ordinary

at Tls. 200, Szechuen at Tls. 172½. Wild silk—Tussah Raw Szechuen at Tls. 115.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96	1894-95
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	39,248	24,598
Canton	10,510	9,823
Yokohama	12,672	9,751
	62,430	44,167

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	bales.	bales.
Canton	7,126	4,617
Shanghai	5,797	4,573
Yokohama	17,573	12,005
	30,496	21,195

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 26th November.—Prices have again improved. Quotations for Formosa are \$81.00 to \$81.50. During the past week sales have been 250 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 26th November.—The market remains in much the same position as at date of last report. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.43 to 7.44 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.97 to 7.00 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.89 to 4.92 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.66 to 4.68 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.33 to 7.39 "
do. " 2, White...	6.87 to 6.89 "
do. " 1, Brown...	4.79 to 4.80 "
Swatow, No. 2, Brown...	4.62 to 4.63 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.00 to 12.10 "
Shekloong "	10.80 to 10.90 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Palamed*, Hongkong to London, 12th November, took—250 bales Hemp, and 7 packages Sundries; for London and or Manchester:—100 bales Waste Silk.

The P. & O. steamer *Shanghai*, Hongkong to London, 12th November, took:—3,750 bales Hemp, 1,040 packages Tea, 20 cases Cassia Buds, 365 rolls Matting, 1,000 cases Preserves, 350 cases Preserves, 27 cases Cigars, 142 bales Feathers, 35 bales Canes, 5 packages Sundries, and 9,571 boxes Tea (58,44 lbs. Congou, 142,947 lbs. Scented Cap r. 5,000 lbs. Sorts; for Antwerp:—4 bales Leaf Tobacco; for Manchester:—325 bales Waste Silk.

The steamer *Ernest Simons*, Hongkong to Continent 13th Nov. mber, took:—16½ bales Raw Silk, 20 cases Silk Piece Goods, 15 bales Hair, 899 packages Tea, 27 packages Effects and Chinaware, 4 packages Sundries, 2 cases Silverware, and 10 bales Canes; for London:—2 cases Sundries.

The steamer *Pinguey*, Hongkong to London, 13th November, took:—329 packages Plumbago Ore, 180 cases Ginger, 150 cases Ginger, 52 half-chests Tea (unknown), 20 cases Merchandise, and 7 packages Private Effects; for Glasgow:—80 cases Ginger; for Liverpool:—49 bales Cotton Twist Waste; for Rosario:—150 packages Tea (unknown).

The German steamer *Aglaia*, Hongkong to Hamburg, 13th November, took:—82 cases Bristles, 9 cases Curios, 26 rolls Matting, 24 cases Feathers, 10 cases Essential Oil, 8 cases Feathers, 14 cases Camphor, 3 packages Human Hair, 9 Bamboo Fans, 50 packages Rattan, 6 cases Silks, 120 packages Canes, and 19 cases Merchandise; for Hamburg option London:—40 cases Bristles; for Port Said:—31 bales Hides; for Havre:—30 cases Cantharides, 1,676 packages Tea, 99 packages Canes, 25 cases Cassia, 4 bags Horne, and 2 cases Feathers; for Havre option Hamburg:—85 cases Fans, 2 cases Cassia, 219 cases Bamboo Scraps, and 118 rolls Matting; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—529 cases Camphor and 500 boxes Cassia Ligna.

The American bark *St. James*, Hongkong to New York, 16th November, took:—18,893 packages Fire and Cannon Crackers, 9,639 boxes Tea, 1,328 bales Strawbraid, 1,170 rolls Matting, 450 packages Rattanware, 300 cases Fans, 100 boxes Saigon Cassia, 60 boxes Joss Sticks, and 284 packages Merchandise.

The P. & O. steamer *Sunda*, Hongkong to London, 17th November, took:—1,500 bales Hemp, 1 case Cigars, 182 bales Waste Silk, 3 cases Silk Piece Goods, 171 cases Chinaware, 6 cases Blackwoodware, 1,015 cases Preserves, 300 cases Preserves, 25 cases Bristles, 5 cases Gongs, and 20 packages Sundries, 13,467 boxes Tea (12,810 lbs. Congou, 257,817 lbs. Scented Cap r, 12,180 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe, 150 packages tea in transit.

The P. & O. steamer *Mirzapore*, Hongkong to London, 21st November, took:—200 bales Waste Silk, 23 cases Bristles, 3 cases Silk Piece Goods, and 8 packages Sundries; for Manchester:—50 bales Silk; for France:—210 bales Raw Silk, 60 bales Canes, 28 packages Hair, and 1 box Sundries.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 26th November.—Bengal.—Transactions have been small during the past week and rates remain practically unchanged. New Patna is quoted at the close at \$780, New Benares at \$790, and Old Benares at \$720.

Malwa.—Business has been rather meagre without any fluctuation in prices. Latest quotations are as follow:—

New	\$700 with allowance of 0 to 1½ cats.
Old (2 yrs.)	\$710 " " ½ to 1 " "
" (4/6 yrs.)	\$720 " " ½ to 1½ " "
" (7/9 yrs.)	\$730 " " ½ to 1½ " "

Persian.—Some small sales have taken place in Paper-wrapped drug during the interval. Oily continuing neglected. Latest figures are \$700 to \$830 for Paper-wrapped, and \$650 to \$700 for Oily according to quality.

To-day's stocks are given as under:—

New Patna	1,500 chests.
New Benares	500 "
Old Benares	55 "
Malwa	800 "
Persian	600 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Nov. 21	790	—	797½	720	700/710	720/730
Nov. 22	782½	—	792½	720	700/710	720/730
Nov. 23	780	—	792½	720	700/710	720/730
Nov. 24	780	—	792½	720	700/710	720/730
Nov. 25	780	—	792½	720	700/710	720/730
Nov. 26	780	—	790	720	100/710	720/730

RICE.

HONGKONG, 26th November.—The market continues to harden. Closing quotations are,—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$1.95 to 1.98
" Round, good quality	2.25 to 2.28
" Long	2.35 to 2.39
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.04 to 2.07
" Garden, " No. 1	2.38 to 2.41
Siam White	2.85 to 2.87
" Fine Cargo	2.97 to 3.00

COALS.

HONGKONG, 26th November.—Very little doing. Sales reported are 4,000 tons Japanese at \$4.90 to \$5.25 to arrive. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$12.00 to 13.00 ex ship, nominal.
Australian	8.00 to 8.25 ex gdn., sales.
Milke Lump	5.75 to 6.90 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small	5.00 to 5.25 ex ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	4.00 to 5.25 ex ship, nominal.
Kebao Lump	6.00 to 7.00 ex ship, nominal.
Kebao Small	4.00 to 4.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 26th November.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—560 bales No. 10 at \$67.50 to \$74, 240 bales No. 12 at \$69 to \$78, 95 bales No. 16 at \$84 to \$87, 695 bales No. 20 at \$83 to \$86. *White Shirtings*.—150 pieces E. F. at \$6.75, 200 pieces J.J.J.J. at \$3.25, 250 pieces J.J.J.J.J.J. at \$3.95. *Victoria Lawns*.—1,000 pieces at \$0.65. *T. Cloths*.—300 Mexican V.V. at \$2.87½, 300 pieces X.X. at 2.92½. *Drills*.—75 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.15. *Long Ells*.—50 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet Stag at \$6.80, 125 pieces 9 lbs. Scarlet Stag at \$7.10.

COTTON YARN.

		per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$62.00 to \$88.00	
English—Nos. 16 to 24	102.00 to 106.00	
" 22 to 24	105.00 to 110.00	
" 28 to 32	110.00 to 115.00	
" 38 to 42	119.00 to 127.00	

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece	
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.40 to 1.55	
7lbs.	1.90 to 2.10	
8.4 lbs.	2.15 to 3.10	
9 to 10 lbs.	3.20 to 4.00	
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.20 to 2.45	
54 to 60 ..	2.60 to 3.20	
64 to 66 ..	3.30 to 3.70	
Fine	4.00 to 6.50	
Book-folds.	2.90 to 5.20	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.62 to 1.78	
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.45 to 1.60	
7lbs. (32 ..) ..	1.85 to 2.00	
6lbs. (32 ..) Mexs.	1.60 to 1.75	
7lbs. (32 ..) ..	2.10 to 2.40	
8 to 8 1/2 lbs. (36 in.)	2.35 to 3.10	
Drills, English—40 yds. 13 1/2 to 14 lbs.	3.20 to 4.30	

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 5 lbs.	1.40 to 3.0
Brocades—Dyed	3.85 to 4.70
Damasks	0.14 to 0.18
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 to 0.12
Velvets—Black. 22 in.	0.22 to 0.30
Velveteens—18 in.	0.18 to 0.21

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.45 to 0.90

WOOLLENS

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.60 to 0.95
German	1.00 to 1.15
Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths.	1.25 to 2.70
	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.50 to 7.80
Assorted	6.60 to 7.90
Camlets—Assorted	11.00 to 30.50
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted ..	14.00 to 22.00
Orleans—Plain	3.80 to 5.10

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.70 to 9.50

METALS

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	2.95 to 2.97 1/2
Square, Flat Round Bar ...	2.92 1/2 to 2.95
Swedish Bar	4.40 to —
Small Round Rod	3.25 to —
Hoop	4.10 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	6.45 to —

	per case
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/28 oz.	26.00 to —
Vivian's 16/32 oz.	25.50 to —
Elliott's 16/28 oz.	25.50 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	24.00 to —
Tiles	24.00 to —
Tin	36.50 to —

	per box
Tin-Plates	5.45 to —

	per cwt. case
Steel	5.50 to —

SUNDRIES

	picul per
Quicksilver	114.00 to 118.50
	per box
Window Glass	3.25 to —
	per 10-gal. case
Kerosene Oil	2.00 to —

SHANGHAI, 21st November.—(From Mr. Geo W. Noel's report.)—As anticipated the market has displayed more life this week, though perhaps not so much as was expected, and the hope is fast fading that the further business this season will be of any great importance. There have been no more departures for Newchwang, that Port being expected to close by this time. What business has been done is almost entirely for Tientsin, the demand, seemingly, being limited to a few well-known chops only, so far as importers are concerned, the dealers being in a position to supply the rest, if necessary, but it is said the merchants have really more than is requisite, and are re-selling on this market some makes, when possible, to cover the prices they paid. The demand has continued to run on English Sheetings and American Drills, holders of the former being willing to meet the market rather than carry them through the winter; although the prices are much below the cost of replacing they still give a good return. For forward delivery better values are obtainable, but as the business done is mostly on a sterling basis the indentors, doubtless, hope for an improvement in exchange. For American goods the market is very firm, full prices being paid both for hard cargo and to arrive next year. Dutch makes are also on the move. The prices ruling at auction show very little change, but look

steady enough for Cottons. The two sales of Cotton Goods were resumed yesterday after an interval of nearly two months, but, judging by the prices realised, the goods have not benefited very much by being off the market so long. Woollens are disappointing, considering the position of the home market.

Metals.—(From M. Alex. Bielfeld's report.)—21st November.—A fair business has been done in Railroad Iron, and there is now sufficient on contract to supply this market for some months to come. Nothing has been reported regarding Lead, quotations "to arrive" being from at about 212.90 for L.B. Contracts have been made for about 800 tons Sohier's Exp., and for 400 tons Goffin Nailrods, terms private. 400 cases Corrugated Iron have also been sold. Scrap Material.—Sales are reported as under:—30 tons Steel Plate Cuttings at Tls. 1.85, "spot;" 100 tons Scrap Iron 64/6 c.i.f.; 400 tons London Horse-shoes private "to arrive;" 200 tons Hamburg Horse-shoes at Tls. 1.62 1/2 "spot."

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 26th November.—With a less belicose tone in the political telegrams from Europe the market has shown more activity and a fair business has been put through in most of the leading stocks. Rates which have not advanced have remained steady with very few exceptions and the market closes fairly firm at quotations.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—The firmness reported in our last continued and small sales were effected at 183 and 184 per cent. premium. Some sales were reported at 185, but as shares were obtainable at the time at 184 we can hardly make that a quotable rate. At time of closing shares could be obtained at 184 per cent. premium cash and at equivalent rates for the end of the year and for January.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have changed hands at \$73 1/2, Cantons (a small lot) at \$185, Unions at \$197 1/2, and Straits at \$25 1/2. Cantons are wanted at \$185, but none are obtainable under \$190.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue neglected at \$255 and Chinas are on offer at \$89 without finding buyers; an offer of \$88 would most likely bring out shares.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have continued to rule steady at \$36 and \$35 1/2 with sales at those rates, market closing inactive. Douglas's have improved their position with sales at \$53, \$54, \$55, \$56, and \$57 ex bonus, closing with buyers at \$56 and sellers at \$57. Indo-Chinas have changed hands at \$57 and more shares are wanted at the rate; the probability of an interim dividend is rumoured. China and Manilas have again found buyers at \$69.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have advanced to \$108 with sales and close steady at that. Luzons after small sales at \$59 are enquired for at \$60, and \$61 would probably be paid for shares.

MINING.—Punjoms continue to change hands in small lots at \$5, but sellers rule the market. Balmorals have improved to \$3, after sales at \$2.50 and \$2.75. Charbonnages remain neglected on this market at \$85 although private advices from Paris report sales at the equivalents of \$120, \$130, and \$135. Jelebus have changed hands at \$3.

DOCKS, WHARFS, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further improved their position to 145 per cent. prem. with sales at that, 140, 141, 143, and 144 per cent. prem.; at time of writing a few shares are obtainable at 145. A phenomenal half-year's earnings is anticipated and rates will most likely go much higher before the end of the year. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharfs, after further sales at \$48, suddenly rose, with rumours of a railway from Kowloon to Canton, with the terminus on the Company's property, &c., &c., to \$50, after sales at \$48 1/2, \$49, and \$49 1/2. At time of writing, these wild cat rumours meeting with but little credence, the market shows weakness at \$48 and sales have been effected as low as \$47 1/2 and a small lot has even changed hands at \$47. Godowns continue neglected.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—With the exception of sales of Hongkong Lands at \$68 1/2 we have nothing to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have advanced to \$17, after sales at \$16 1/2 and \$16 1/4. Watsons have changed hands at \$12 and more shares are wanted at that rate. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[sellers]
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	184 p. ct. prem.,
China & Japan, prf.	...	nominal
Do. ordinary	£1	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$29, sales & sellers
Foun. Shares	£1	\$105, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	15s.	\$10 1/2
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	\$7, sellers & buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$3
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$10, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$108, sales
Chinese Loan '86 E.	Tls. 250	10 p. ct. prem.
Dakin, Cruickshank & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$10
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$20	\$20
Green Island Cement ..	\$55	\$17, sales & buyers
H. Brick and Cement ..	\$12 1/2	\$6 1/2, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$102, buyers
Hongkong Electric ..	\$8	\$6.50, sales & buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$90
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$17 1/2, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$50	\$96, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$48, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$150, sellers
H. & T. Dock	\$125	145 p. ct. prem.,
Insurances—		[sales & sellers]
Canton	\$50	\$187 1/2, buyers
China Fire	\$50	\$89, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$73 1/2, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$255, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 226, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$25
Union	\$25	\$200
Yangtze	\$60	\$119 1/2
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment ..	\$50	\$68 1/2, sales
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9 1/2, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$16
West Point Building ..	\$40	\$19
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$60, sales & buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$85
Jelebu	\$5	\$3, sales & sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$3, buyers
Punjom	\$4	\$5, sales & sellers
Do. (Preference) ..	\$1	\$1.50
Raults	13s. 10d.	\$4.10, sellers
Seamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$69, sales & buyers
China Shippers	£5	£2.10
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$57, sales & sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$20	\$35 1/2, sales & buyers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$57, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37 1/2	\$42 1/2, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 22nd November.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—The market has been rather dull during the week, and there is but a small business to report. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—One sale was made at 183 per cent. premium, for delivery on the 25th current. The latest quotation which we have from Hongkong is 182 1/2. The London rate is unchanged at £40. Bank of China and Japan.—We are informed that the Ordinary shares can now be transferred on the seller giving a guarantee to pay the call, if the buyer fails to do so. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares have been in demand, and sales have been made at Tls. 150/152. Indo-China S. N. Shares have been placed at Tls. 42 1/2 and Tls. 42. Marine Insurance.—China Traders' shares have changed hands at \$74 from local holders, and \$73 from Hongkong. North-Chinas have been done at Tls. 225. Fire Insurance.—Business has been done in China Fire shares at \$89 cash and \$93 for 31st March, both from Hongkong holders. Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew shares have been placed at Tls. 310, and Hongkong and Kowloon shares have been sold to Hongkong at \$47, and are wanted. Miscellaneous.—Business has been done in Perak Sugar Cultivation shares at Tls. 34 1/2, Hall & Holtz shares at \$25, Hongkong Land Investment shares, from Hongkong, at \$68 1/2, J. Llewellyn & Co. shares at \$40, Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares at Tls. 51, Shanghai Langkat Tobacco shares at Tls. 240 for 30th April, Ewo Cotton Spinning shares at Tls. 43, and International shares at Tls. 25 and Tls. 22 1/2. Laou-kung-mow shares are offering. Shanghai Ice Co.—Shares have been sold at Tls. 185.

TUESDAY, 26th November.
CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.75
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.81
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.22
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	53½
Credits, 60 days' sight	54½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	191
Bank, on demand	191½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	191
Bank, on demand	191½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	par.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	5 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	par.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	—
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	47.40

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 22nd November (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report)—Our homeward freight market remains unchanged since last writing. New York steamers continuing to receive good support, while for London there is no great improvement to note, and though there is still a fair amount of cargo for shipment to both destinations, we must look for a lull in the near future after the exceptionally heavy shipments to New York of tea in particular. For New York *via* Cape.—There are several opportunities offering for sail tonnage, but cargo appears scarce and rates somewhat high. The *Engelhorn* loading in Hongkong has taken a fair quantity from this at 25s. and is expected to sail at end of the month. The *John R. Kelly* at Hongkong is asking for cargo at 24s. 6d. through rate. The *Emily P. Whitney* will soon be ready to commence loading here, but a full cargo has already been prepared for her, and only a very limited amount of space is procurable. Her rate is 25s. "To arrive" we have the *Lilian L. Robbins*, asking 22s. 6d.; she is due any hour now, being two months past Anjer. Rates of freight are:—From Shanghai to London by Conference Line, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 45s.; tea 50s.; Northern Continental ports, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 50s.; New York, general cargo 40s.; tea 40s.; New York *via* London, general cargo 50s.; tea 50s.; Boston, general cargo 52s. 6d.; Philadelphia, general cargo 60s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London by Shell Line, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent.; Hamburg, general cargo 35s. net; New York, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent. Havre direct, general cargo 37s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow 35s., general cargo 40s. net; Marseilles, tallow 35s., general cargo 37s. 6d. net. 45s. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York by sail 25s.; New York by Pacific Lines, tea 1½ cent gold. Coast rates are:—Chinkiang to Canton, 16 candelarens regular steamers; Moji to Shanghai, \$1.20 per ton coal nominal; Nagasaki to Shanghai, \$1.10 per ton coal nominal. No disengaged vessel in port.

VESSELS ON THE RIVER.

For LONDON.—*Malacca* (str.), *Java* (str.), *Oanfa* (str.), *Euplectela* (str.), *Khedive* (str.), *Ulysses* (str.).
For BREMEN.—*Preussen* (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Afridi* (str.).
For VICTORIA.—*Victoria* (str.).
For NEW YORK.—*Engelhorn*, *Matterhorn*, *Teviotdale* (str.), *Monmouthshire* (str.), *Bengloe* (str.). *E. F. Whitney*, *Torrisdale*, *John R. Kelly*.
For AUSTRALIA.—*Guthrie* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

November—
ARRIVALS.
21, Sultan, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
21, Victoria, Swedish str., from Canton.
21, Brunhilde, German str., from Canton.

21, John R. Kelly, Amr. ship, from N. York.
21, Peacock, British g.-bt., from Anping.
21, Frammes, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
21, Trocas, British str., from London.
21, Marie Berg, German bark, from Amoy.
21, Kut Wo, British str., from Glasgow.
21, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
21, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
22, Szechuen, British str., from Canton.
22, Macduff, British str., from Liverpool.
22, Inverlay, British str., from Canton.
22, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
22, Strathclyde, British str., from Foochow.
22, Sarpedon, British str., from Shanghai.
22, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
22, Mary, German bark, from Newchwang.
23, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
23, Altmere, British str., from Canton.
23, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
23, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
23, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
23, Victoria, British str., from Tacoma.
23, Afridi, British str., from Moji.
23, Amur, British str., from Amoy.
23, Benlomond, British str., from London.
23, Glenfarg, British str., from London.
23, Hong Leong, British str., from Straits.
23, Tsinan, British str., from Sydney.
24, Continental, German str., from Swatow.
24, Fooksang, British str., from Chinkiang.
24, Pectan, British str., from Singapore.
24, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
24, Vranus, Spanish str., from Manila.
24, Orient, German bark, from Amoy.
25, Germania, German str., from Chinkiang.
25, Strathallan, British str., from Hongay.
25, Aurora, Austrian cruiser, from Nagasaki.
25, Decima, German str., from Newchwang.
25, Cassius, German str., from Chefoo.
26, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
26, Memnon, British str., from Sandakan.
26, Salazie, French str., from Shanghai.
26, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Newchwang.
26, Tailee, German str., from Swatow.
26, Hangchow, British str., from Canton.
26, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Telamon, British str., from Liverpool.
26, Alice Mary, British bark, from Amoy.
26, Keong Wai, British str., from Bangkok.
26, Lyderhorn, Norw. str., from Kutchinotzu.
26, Progress, German str., from Quinhon.

November— DEPARTURES.

21, Benvenue, British str., for Moji.
21, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
21, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
21, Erato, German str., for Yokohama.
21, Agamemnon, British str., for Shanghai.
21, Mirzapore, British str., for Europe.
21, Strathlyon, British str., for Kobe.
21, Takasago Maru, Jap. str., for Kelung.
21, Wingsang, British str., for Calcutta.
21, Yeijo Maru, Jap. str., for Kelung.
22, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
22, Hohenzollern, German str., for Yokohama.
22, Boynton, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
22, Undaunted, British str., for Singapore.
22, Ancona, British str., for Yokohama.
22, Orel, Russian str., for Singapore.
22, Victoria, Swedish str., for Bangkok.
23, Airlie, British str., for Australia.
23, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
23, Macduff, British str., for Shanghai.
23, Marie Berg, German bark, for Whampoa.
23, Preussen, German str., for Shanghai.
23, Szechuen, British str., for Sourabaya.
23, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
23, Trocas, British str., for Shanghai.
24, Altmere, British str., for Chinkiang.
24, Hainan, German str., for Nagasaki.
24, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
24, Inverlay, British str., for Moji.
24, Kut Wo, British str., for Shanghai.
24, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
24, Sarpedon, British str., for London.
24, Strathclyde, British str., for New York.
24, Yaroslavl, Russian transt., for Singapore.
25, Aolus, British cruiser, for Singapore.
25, Amara, British str., for Singapore.
25, Fooksang, British str., for Canton.
25, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
25, Strathallan, British str., for Canton.
26, Argyll, British str., for Moji.
26, Germania, German str., for Canton.
26, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
26, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.
26, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.

26, Orient, German bark, for Whampoa.
26, China, British str., for San Francisco.
26, Decima, German str., for Canton.
26, Hangchow, British str., for Swatow.
26, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
26, Martha, German str., for Swatow.
26, Swatow, German str., for Moji.
26, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
26, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Arratoon Apcar*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Mrs. Hansen and child, Messrs. Krumme, Micholitz and Lindsey, and 367 Chinese.
Per *Preussen*, str., from Bremen, &c.—Mrs. K. Inghald and children, Mr. and Mrs. R. Wohlfahrt, Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald and children, Messrs. A. Kramer, A. Pertus, G. Bohm, H. O. Ermekeil, C. Mueller, M. Passquale, A. K. Henderson, P. Sim, T. M. Show, Misses Blomfield, Gossnold, and Tribe.
Per *Thales*, str., from Taiwanfoo, &c.—Mr. Schwarzhapf.
Per *Strathclyde*, str., from Foochow for New York.—Mr. and Mrs. Maine and child.
Per *Hongkong*, str., from Haiphong, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Lepanay, Mrs. Rouze.
Per *Sarpedon*, str., from Japan, &c.—Capt. Newell (U.S. *Detroit*), Dr. Gregory.
Per *Zafiro*, str., from Manila.—Mr. Leon Dreyfus.
Per *Glenfarg*, str., from London, &c.—Dr. and Mrs. Chalmers, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford, Miss Crawford, Miss L. Crawford, Messrs. L. and F. Crawford, Miss Mead, Capt. Davies, and Mr. Pinckernelle.
Per *Tsinan*, str., from Sydney.—Mr., Mrs., and Miss Pierce, Mrs. Stillman, Miss Tucker, Professor and Mrs. Loissette, Mrs. Stewart, Miss Thompson, Miss Brown, Miss Fletcher, and 2 Misses Reid.

DEPARTED.

Per *Ceylon*, str., for Shanghai from London.—Miss Yeats, Messrs. L. A. R. Mackennon, B. Twyman, F. B. Mayers, and J. Barton. For Kobe.—Mr. R. W. Crosse.
Per *Mirzapore*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore.—Lieut. R. H. L. Risk, R.N. For Calcutta.—Mr. W. Oakley. For Bombay or Calcutta.—Mr. Wallace. For Bombay.—Mr. R. S. Philpott. For Brindisi.—Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Umbstaetter. For London.—Capt. and Mrs. Edward W. Very, Mr. W. J. Hubbard, R.N., Lieut. L. H. Richardson, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. Moore and child, and Miss Uniacke. From Shanghai for Penang.—Mr. Moh Shark. For Brindisi.—Mr. A. A. Whelan. For London via Marseilles.—H.E. Sir Nicholas O'Connor, Lady O'Connor and 2 children, Messrs. J. H. Bateman, H. T. Butterworth, P. A. Crosthwaite, and J. Boyce Kup. For London.—Mr. J. W. Hope Gill. From Yokohama for Singapore.—Misses Hardman and Doran. For Penang.—Mr. F. Haan. For Ismailia.—Mr. G. Winslow. For London.—Mr. J. H. Graham. From Nagasaki for London.—Dr. H. Blackburn and 2 children.
Per *Wingsang*, str., for Singapore.—Mrs. Maddox. For Calcutta.—Mrs. Ellwood, and Mr. Muster.
Per *Ancona*, str., from Hongkong for Kobe.—Mr. Pomeroy. For Yokohama from London.—Mr. T. C. Daniel. From Colombo.—Mr. Millwood.
Per *Hohenzollern*, str., for Yokohama from Southampton.—Messrs. F. H. Pitts Tucker and family, M. Laeslin, E. Johnston and Y. Murahami. From Singapore.—Messrs. Oloro Minsati and F. W. Rosener Mang.
Per *Preussen*, steamer, for Shanghai from Southampton.—Mrs. Bowman and two children Rev. and Mrs. Bryson and children, Mrs. Ronsey, and three children, Misses Mitchell and Beale, Messrs. F. A. Sampson and D. Folwell. From Genoa.—Mr. and Mrs. E. von Brandt, Dr. Alice Marston, Messrs. E. von Rosthorn, H. Lethlage, von der Goetz, F. Reiber, E. Fontand, L. Gessago and E. Wempler. From Bremen.—Messrs. Morsel and Iener. From Antwerp.—Mr. V. Blockhays. From Naples.—Professor Arendt. From Colombo.—Mr. W. H. Cox. From Singapore.—Messrs. A. Siemssen, von Strombeck, M. L. Foft and family, Capt. C. Gesewich. From Hongkong.—Messrs. J. J. Bell, Irving, D. Landale, B. Perlus, Mr. and Mrs. Turner.